

being totally free from the suspicion, however gratuitous, of being envious of clerical wealth and distinction. The list also contains the names of many gentlemen connected with the periodical press. We can reckon up at least thirteen editors of journals and magazines, conducted on anti-establishment principles; and we know that there are many other editors, both in town and in country, who, although their names are not on the committee, entirely concur in the movement, and will do their utmost to promote it. Perhaps, however, the most remarkable feature of the whole is, the constellation of splendid Scottish names with which the list is dignified and adorned. There can be but one opinion among dissenters as to the character of the committee, formed in connexion with the establishment question, on which are to be found the names of Drs Wardlaw, Brown, Young, Marshall, Russell, Heugh, King, Harper, and Thomson. They are a pledge at once of the respectability and of the success of movement.

We are aware that many warm friends of the voluntary principle feel objections to the proposed conference; some deeming the time unseasonable, and others fearing the adoption of imprudent measures. We invite our friends to consider the subject attentively. It is evident that a conference of very considerable size and importance will be held; it is evident that our opponents are roused into a state of great activity and zeal; it is evident that though we remain quiet, they will not. Look at Leeds; look at Norwich. We must be up and doing. If we would have our opinions make way, we must promulgate them; if we would not lose our present privileges, we must take measures for their preservation. To us, we confess, it appears, on every account, most desirable that the advocates of the voluntary principle, the friends of religious freedom, and the adherents of a scriptural theology, should have an opportunity of consulting together upon interests so dear to them, and threatened with so many dangers. And if there should be among us some ardent spirits whose zeal is apt to outrun their discretion, how much more important does it become that the gathering should be attended by those whom age and experience have taught to be wise as well as warm!

(The British Friend.)

In the present agitation, there is one striking feature, which we cannot pass over in silence, because it affords satisfactory evidence of the diffusion of sounder sentiments than those prevalent in the times of nonconformity two centuries ago. Then, the struggle was not against national establishments because they were radically wrong, but because each party thought itself better entitled than another to state connexion and support; and an especial advantage taken of their temporary ascendancy, was, to persecute all who differed from them. The case now is happily different—none, so far as we can learn, seeking the desired object by other than strictly Christian means, or with the view of any other than the present becoming the dominant party—that position being pronounced most baneful.

(From a Correspondent of the British Friend.)

The first direct avowal in its (the Convention's) favour, from any important body, was a declaration, signed by seventy-five protestant dissenting ministers resident in the midland counties: it was addressed to the dissenters of London and the vicinity, and contained a manly avowal of their sentiments respecting the Convention. For some time after this, however, there appeared but little disposition, on the part of the dissenting community, to carry out the plan, and its warmest friends were not without fears for its safety; but the cheering symptoms of a more healthy state of opinion that have lately developed themselves, afford cause for believing that the Convention will eventually be summoned. The obstacles which have prevented its more speedy progress principally arise from the opposition of some individuals who (with good reason) believe that the Convention will have the effect of diminishing a species of sacerdotal influence which they are very anxious to retain: their opposition will, we trust, prove ineffectual, in retarding much longer the progress of so praiseworthy a project. I have now briefly delineated the principal features in the progress of this question; and before concluding, I may be permitted to express a hope that those who approve of the plan will not withhold what assistance may be in their power, and thus advance the cause of religious freedom, for which our forefathers in profession made such sacrifices of life, liberty, and property. The great question of religious establishments is gradually becoming "the question of the age;" it is now more widely and clearly seen that all state interference with religion is productive of the worst consequences; and that in no nation in which a church establishment exists, is there perfect freedom, or exemption from ecclesiastical domination. Of all bodies of nonconformists, none have so nobly, so firmly, and so constantly upheld their testimony in this respect, as the society of Friends. At such a crisis, then, as the present, when bigotry and superstition menace our liberties with destruction, it is to be hoped that the Convention will not be backward in giving expression to their sentiments upon this important subject, nor withhold their influence from any project which, in a Christian spirit and manner, seeks to remove the deadly incubus under which our country labours.

CHURCH RATE.—We stated last week that a poll was proceeding in this parish as to whether a church rate should be granted or not. It finally closed at four o'clock on Thursday evening, when the numbers stood as follow:—Voted for the rate, 519; against it, 256—majority for the rate, 267.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

CLERICAL INTOLERANCE.—The correctness of the following fact is vouched for by a trustworthy correspondent; but, in consequence of the crowded state of our columns, we must omit the comment:—"For several years past, a very respectable dissenting preacher has ministered the word of life to a small number of hearers in the neighbourhood of Alton, in Hampshire. It ultimately appeared that the word preached had reached the hearts of some of the people; upon which they desired, and proposed, being formed into a body, after the manner of the most part of dissenting professors in our land. To accomplish this end, arrangements were accordingly made. The 4th of January last, '44, was fixed to be the day of formation of the church, and setting apart of the minister to his work. The room in which they usually assembled being inconvenient for such a purpose, as to its size and locality, application was made to the proprietors of the Town hall of Alton for the purpose. The request was granted at once, upon the agreement of the dissenters' paying seven shillings for the use of it for that day—the same charge generally made on all occasions of similar use. The vicar, hearing of the dissenters' intention, or seeing, in some way, the notice bill published, immediately demanded the doors of the Town hall to be closed against the preachers and the people. However, the dissenters being ignorant of the vicar's plot, on the morning of the day above-named, the people assembled, when it was publicly known in the town, and told to the dissenters themselves, that, should they enter the Town hall for such an end, the vicar would certainly enter legal proceedings against Messrs Foreman and James, the officiating ministers on that occasion. Not certain whether the Town hall were licensed or not, we deemed it best to desist (though not for the indulgence of the vicar's intolerance). Unable to obtain any other convenient place in the town, because of the fears of a priest-ridden people, whose interest appears to lie at the mercy of their religious guide, we then retired to an inn, and, in a most convenient room for the purpose, we accomplished entirely the object of our meeting; and, returned to our several dwelling places, under the impression of pity for our adversary, the vicar, and of praise to be counted worthy to suffer persecution for truth and a good conscience."

THE BENCH AND THE CHURCH.—In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday last, the case of "the Queen v. the vicar of Aston" (Birmingham) came on for argument. It was a rule calling on the defendant to show cause why he should not pay the costs of a mandamus which had been issued, commanding him to hold a fresh election of churchwarden. On Easter Tuesday, 1843, Mr Machin was the pro-rate candidate, and Mr Oliver the anti-rate candidate; a poll was demanded, and though the parish contains 10,000 rated inhabitants, and covers 20 square miles, the vicar closed the poll in 2 hours, and only gave three-quarters of an hour's notice of his intention to do so. The result was the election of the pro-rate candidate. Upon these facts being stated, the mandamus issued, and a new election was held last July, when Mr Oliver, the anti-rate candidate, was elected by a majority of 735 persons, and 102 votes. The total number of persons who voted was 2,118. On the former occasion there were only about 700 voters. The Solicitor-general, Mr Chilton, Q.C., and Mr Mellor showed cause against the rule, insisting that there was no improper motive on the part of the vicar, and that after all there was a dispute about the second election, and that no injustice would be done to Mr Oliver by refusing the costs, he being, as they alleged, indemnified by a subscription. Mr Hill, Q.C., and Mr Boothby contended that the misconduct of the vicar was clearly established—that the court had already decided in favour of Oliver—and would they now do him the injustice of making him pay the heavy expenses of getting that decision? The application for the mandamus was rendered necessary by the vicar's misconduct, and his express refusal to hold another meeting. With respect to the subscription, they said Mr Morgan, the attorney for Oliver, had been above making inquiries as to a subscription on the other side. The question was, when a party obtained a decision of that court in his favour, must he afterwards be told it must be at his own expense? The Queen v. Newbury and other cases were referred to. Lord Denman said, the vicar had been placed in a situation of some difficulty, and at the moment he could not be expected to act with that coolness and discretion which was so desirable. On the whole, we think the justice of the case will be satisfied by discharging this rule, but without costs.

A numerous and enthusiastic meeting of the catholics of Macclesfield was held on Monday, the 29th ult., "for the purpose of expressing their sentiments, in regard to the recent uncalled-for attack on the civil liberties of the Roman catholics of the empire, by the exclusion from the jury, on the Irish state trials, of every member of their church." Various members of the catholic persuasion addressed the meeting, and resolutions denouncing the conduct of government were unanimously passed, embodied as a petition to parliament, to be presented by the member for the borough.

LONDON FREE SECESSIONS.—(From a correspondent.)—The presbytery of Edinburgh have suspended and deprived the Rev. James Hamilton, of the Scotch church, Regent square, London, and declared him no longer capable of holding any preferment in the church of Scotland or in connexion with it. The trust deeds of that place of worship bind it to be in strict connexion with the established church of Scotland, and Edward Irving was removed from it on the sole ground that he was cut off by his presbytery in Scotland.—*Times.*

CLERICAL DOINGS NEAR BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.—A respectable correspondent gives us the following statement of a fact:—"A certain clergyman in this neighbourhood was recently visiting a suffering invalid. She was reading a valuable little work, called 'The Sinner's Friend,' which had been kindly lent her by a lady. The clergyman, while professionally administering spiritual consolation, laid hold of the book, unceremoniously placed it in his pocket, and walked off, stating that he would bring her a better one on his next visit. In a few days he called again, and brought her a publication, containing the all-absorbing subject, 'Prayers for every day in the Week.' He then said, the previous publication was not fit for her to read—that it would do her serious injury—and must have been brought her by a dissenter. The invalid, with some difficulty, told him she was much pained at his taking the book from her in the manner he did, and could not help weeping after he had left. His wife immediately added—'Oh! my dear, you must know it is a dangerous publication, and one which you ought not to read.' 'You must not,' said he, 'think for yourself; leave me to judge of the propriety of the book; you are to confide entirely in your teachers; what they say you must do; they must be wiser and know better than you.' After the delivery of this very eloquent address, he took his departure. In the foregoing facts, related simply as they transpired, we see an evident attempt to produce and perpetuate a kind of mental slavery. It is tantamount to popish despotism, and more than a virtual suppression of the right of private judgment."—*Western Times.*

The Duke of Wellington and Dr Wynter, Chancellor and Vice-chancellor of Oxford University, have given an answer to the great "lay protest" against the prevalence of "tractarian" principles in the university; they consider the subscription of the thirty-nine articles a sufficient safeguard against erroneous opinions, and they have not lost sight of their duty in enforcing a strict compliance with the statute.

A DISSENTING PRIEST.—A correspondent, upon whose veracity we can fully rely, sends the following:—"At a funeral of a child, which took place last week, a deacon of a baptist church officiated. He was dressed in a parson's gown, which he had purchased in Monmouth street, Seven Dials, and he read the funeral service from the common prayer book over the dead child!"

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Parliament was opened on Thursday, by her Majesty in person. The weather, which on the previous day was exceedingly inclement, suddenly cleared up on Wednesday night, and, during the whole of Thursday, the sun shone brightly on the hundreds of spectators that lined the road to the houses of parliament, anxious to witness the ceremony. Her Majesty, having proceeded in state from Buckingham palace, arrived at the House of Lords at a few minutes before two o'clock, amid the cheers of her assembled subjects, and a royal salute of twenty-one guns. The Queen, who looked remarkably well, having robed, entered the house, accompanied by the great officers of state and of the household; and the Commons having answered the summons of the Usher of the Black Rod, and appeared at the Bar, headed by the Speaker, her Majesty proceeded to read the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
It affords me great satisfaction again to meet you in Parliament, and to have the opportunity of profiting by your assistance and advice.

"I entertain a confident hope that the general peace, so necessary for the happiness and prosperity of all nations, will continue uninterrupted.

"My friendly relations with the King of the French, and the good understanding happily established between my government and that of his Majesty, with the continued assurances of the peaceful and amicable dispositions of all princes and states, confirm me in this expectation.

"I have directed that the treaty, which I have concluded with the Emperor of China, shall be laid before you, and I rejoice to think that it will, in its results, prove highly advantageous to the trade of this country.

"Throughout the whole course of my negotiations with the government of China, I have uniformly disclaimed the wish for any exclusive advantages.

"It has been my desire that equal favour should be shown to the industry and commercial enterprise of all nations.

"The hostilities which took place during the past year in Scinde have led to the annexation of a considerable portion of that country to the British possessions in the East.

"In all the military operations, and especially in the battles of Meanee and Hydrabad, the constancy and valour of the troops, native and European, and the skill and gallantry of their distinguished commander, have been most conspicuous.

"I have directed that additional information, explanatory of the transactions in Scinde, shall be forthwith communicated to you.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"The estimates for the ensuing year will be immediately laid before you. They have been prepared with a strict regard to economy, and at the same time with a due consideration of those exigencies of the public service which are connected with the maintenance of our maritime strength, and the multiplied demands on the naval and military establishments from the various parts of a widely extended empire.

"MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

"I congratulate you on the improved condition of several important branches of the trade and manufactures of the country.

Monday, Feb. 5th.

"I trust that the increased demand for labour has relieved in a corresponding degree many classes of my faithful subjects from sufferings and privations, which at former periods I have had occasion to deplore.

"For several successive years the annual produce of the revenue fell short of the public expenditure.

"I confidently trust that in the present year the public income will be amply sufficient to defray the charges upon it.

"I feel assured that in considering all matters connected with the financial concerns of the country, you will bear in mind the evil consequences of accumulating debt during the time of peace, and that you will firmly resolve to uphold that public credit, the maintenance of which concerns equally the permanent interests and the honour and reputation of a great country.

"In the course of the present year, the opportunity will occur of giving notice to the bank of England on the subject of the revision of its charter.

"It may be advisable that during this session of parliament, and previously to the arrival of the period assigned for the giving of such notice, the state of the law with regard to the privileges of the bank of England, and to other banking establishments, should be brought under your consideration.

"At the close of the last session of parliament I declared to you my firm determination to maintain inviolate the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland.

"I expressed at the same time my earnest desire to co-operate with parliament in the adoption of all such measures as might tend to improve the social condition of Ireland, and develop the natural resources of that part of the United Kingdom.

"I am resolved to act in strict conformity with this declaration. I forbear from observations on events in Ireland, in respect to which proceedings are pending before the proper legal tribunal.

"My attention has been directed to the state of the law and practice with regard to the occupation of land in Ireland.

"I have deemed it advisable to institute extensive local inquiries into a subject of so much importance, and have appointed a commission with ample authority to conduct the requisite investigation.

"I recommend to your early consideration the enactments at present in force in Ireland concerning the registration of voters for members of parliament.

"You will probably find that a revision of the law of registration, taken in conjunction with other causes at present in operation, would produce a material diminution of the number of county voters, and that it may be advisable, on that account, to consider the state of the law, with a view to an extension of the county franchise in Ireland.

"I commit to your deliberate consideration the various important questions of public policy which will necessarily come under your review, with full confidence in your loyalty and wisdom, and with an earnest prayer to Almighty God to direct and favour your efforts to promote the welfare of all classes of my people."

THE ADDRESS.

Lord ELDON commenced the business of the session by moving the adoption of the usual address. He recapitulated the principal topics of the royal speech, and especially urged the necessity of adopting efficient means to preserve the public peace in Ireland. He hoped that the existing protection to agriculture would be long continued; and hinted at the propriety of introducing a measure for the prevention of duelling.

Lord HILL briefly seconded the motion.

The Marquis of NORMANBY, having been absent during part of last session, in consequence of ill health, took the earliest opportunity of stating his opinions on the affairs of Ireland. As soon as possible after the termination of the trials in Ireland, he would give notice of a motion to consider the state of that country; probably for the 13th instant.

Lord BROUGHAM expressed great satisfaction in concurring, for the first time in his experience, in an address of nothing but congratulations; he did not remember an instance in which every quarter of the world was so clear—no one part of the political horizon was at all obscure. Alluding, though cautiously, to Ireland, he recommended paternal good government rather than coercion; and glancing at the commission which had been issued, he deprecated interference between landlord and tenant, as an invasion of the rights of property—the very corner-stone of society. He rejoiced in the cordial good understanding between England and France, with a warm panegyric on his friend M. Guizot, for whom he disavowed any "Anglomaniæ" or subjection of French to English interests; and a cutting censure of the opposition leaders, who, to escape the gloomy shades of opposition for the sunny eminences of power, seek to delude and inflame the warlike passions of the French people.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE took exception to the conduct of the government in Ireland. He learned that they had no measure for the benefit of the country, except one merely relating to political liberty, meant apparently as a clapnet, to delay the moment when they must look the distresses of Ireland in the face.

Lord CAMPBELL inquired after the law reforms which were announced last session, not completed, but not reannounced this session; particularly the Ecclesiastical Courts bill and the County Courts bill. Perhaps this session would present the converse of the last, and in place of much promise and little performance there would be little promise and much performance. He also concluded that after the termination of the Irish state trials, a bill would be introduced for the prevention of duelling.

The Lord CHANCELLOR said that a bill to reform the ecclesiastical courts, and one to establish courts for the recovery of small debts, would be the only measures of the kind introduced by government this session.

Lord COTTENHAM intimated that, in that case, he should reintroduce his bill on the subject of local courts.

The address was agreed to; and the house adjourned at eight o'clock.

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH.—The Earl of Aberdeen, in reply to Lord Brougham, assured his noble and learned friend that nothing would be done by our negotiations with France to impede our exertions in the cause of humanity; and he further assured his noble friend that the French minister desired the abolition of the slave trade quite as much as himself. Lord Brougham found the statesmanlike view of his noble friend perfectly satisfactory, and earnestly prayed that we might not relax our efforts to persuade other nations to act with us in extinguishing the traffic.

GAMING.—The Duke of Richmond, on the suggestion of Lord Brougham, and on receiving some opposition from the Bishop of London, withdrew his intended bill to legalise betting; and on the motion of Lord Denman the laws relating to gaming were referred to a select committee.

HEALTH OF TOWNS.—The Marquess of Normanby referred at some length to the government having neglected to carry through any measures to enforce the recommendations of the commission for inquiring into the health of towns, and asked whether anything had been done, or was in contemplation. The Duke of Buccleuch spoke of the great difficulties there were in the way of legislating on the subject, and stated that he hoped in a short time to be in possession of information which would enable him to suggest some legislative measure; but he was not prepared to pledge himself on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

State trials (Ireland) against the formation of the jury, 11.
National debt, suggesting means of paying it off, 1.
St Asaph and Bangor dioceses, against union of, 2.
Corn laws, against repeal, 29.
Redress of grievances, for, 2.

PUBLIC BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

BILL PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Metropolis improvements bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Metropolis improvements bill.

MOTIONS.

THE ADDRESS.

Amendment proposed, after the word "empire," at the end of the ninth paragraph, to insert the following words: "To assure her Majesty, that her faithful Commons will be always desirous to vote such supplies as may be found just and necessary for the public service; but that, under the existing circumstances of the country, we shall deem it our first and most important duty to inquire into the various grievances complained of by her people, and to devise such measures as may be most effectual for redressing all just causes of complaint." (Mr Sharman Crawford.) The House divided; ayes 29, noes 285.

Another amendment proposed, after the word "deplete," at the end of the tenth paragraph, to insert the words, "To declare that we should ill discharge the duty we owe to her Majesty, if we did not direct her most serious attention to the present condition of her faithful people, which, notwithstanding the improvement in some branches of industry, still exhibits such an extent of destitution and suffering, as to demand from her Majesty's faithful Commons an expression of their opinion of the causes, and the best means of removing the same."

"To assure her Majesty that, although we fully appreciate the progress made by this parliament in reducing the duties on many articles of import, we at the same time deeply lament that her Majesty has not been advised to call our immediate attention to the repeal of those pernicious laws which prevent free trade in corn and provisions, so essential to the sustenance and comfort of the people, and to the prosperity of the state; and that we earnestly implore her Majesty's gracious co-operation for the repeal of those prohibitory and restrictive laws which give monopolies in sugar and other articles to certain classes of her Majesty's subjects, to the detriment of the rest; so that no duties may be levied on any imports, except for the direct purposes of revenue to her Majesty's exchequer."

"To submit most respectfully to her Majesty that an excessive and unequal taxation, disproportionate to the reduced value of property, the diminished profits on capital, and to the inadequate wages of labour, pressing on all ranks of the community, but especially on the working classes, is a principal cause of the existing distress; and that a reduction of the same is absolutely necessary for the relief of her Majesty's loyal, peaceful, and suffering people; that, as this country is, and, as we rejoice to hear, is likely to continue, at peace with all the world, we humbly represent to her Majesty that many branches of the military, civil, and naval establishments may be so greatly reduced as to procure for the people considerable relief from the pressure of taxation, without detriment to the public service." (Mr Hume.) The House divided; ayes, 49; noes, 235: main question put and agreed to.

DEBATES.

Thursday, February 1st.

THE ADDRESS.

The SPEAKER having read her Majesty's speech on the opening of parliament,

Lord CLIVE rose and moved that a humble address be presented to her Majesty, in answer to the speech which had just been read. The noble lord took a review of all the leading facts in the royal speech, and expressed his opinion that it must prove most satisfactory to the country at large. It was most satisfactory to know that the friendly relations of this country with foreign powers remained unchanged [hear, hear]. Her Majesty's recent visit to France would no doubt tend to cement the pacific and friendly feeling which existed between these two great nations [hear, hear]. Each succeeding year he hoped would prove the permanency of the peace which had been concluded. The noble lord then referred to the peace with China, and the successful termination of hostilities in that part of the world, under the able management of Sir H. Pottinger; and, after remarking on other subjects contained in the royal speech, in conclusion moved that a loyal and dutiful address be presented to her Majesty, in answer to her most gracious speech. The noble lord then read the address, which was an echo of the speech.

Mr CARDWELL seconded the address in an able and eloquent speech, and was much cheered. The hon. member congratulated the house on the present aspect of the country. Trade and commerce were improving. There was a surplus revenue, and national prosperity was returning [hear].

Mr HUME, while he admitted that some of the circumstances noticed by her Majesty were matters of satisfaction, objected to the practice of voting the address upon the speech from the throne without a day's interval for the previous consideration of it. With the prospect of peace he was especially pleased, and above all peace between England and France, whose mutual friendship appeared to him of the utmost importance for both. He availed himself of the paragraph in the speech respecting the treaty with China to enforce the expediency of free trade in general. He reserved himself on the subject of the war in India, but protested against being supposed to be satisfied with what was said about economy, which he regarded as the most important of the duties of parliament. He acknowledged that there had been an improvement in some important branches of our industry, but complained that the principles of free trade were not carried out as they should have been if ministers had meant to be consistent. The anti-league meetings, and the language used there, fell next under his animadversion, in the course of which he expressed a friendly anxiety that the tenant farmers should not be deluded by the landlords. He did not believe that ministers meant to give relief on the corn question, but he thought they ought to have dealt with it in the speech; at all events they ought to speak out in this debate; unless they did so there would be a civil war between leaguers and anti-leaguers. He believed it was as much the interest of the landlords, as of all other classes, to get rid of the corn laws; for their abolition would clear the land of a million of paupers. It was not a measure likely, as some supposed, to lower wages; for wages were already lower in England than in any other country of the world. Where else could you buy a knife and fork for three halfpence, or get a shirt made for three-pence? If he believed that the abolition of the corn laws would lower wages, he would himself oppose it. He proposed to add these words in the eleventh paragraph, immediately after the part setting forth the improved condition of several branches of trade:—

"To declare that we should ill discharge the duty we owe to her Majesty if we do not direct her most serious attention to the present condition of her faithful people, which, notwithstanding the improvement of some branches of industry, still exhibits such an extent of destitution and suffering as to demand from her Majesty's faithful Commons an expression of their opinion of the causes, and the best means of removing the same. To assure her Majesty that although we fully appreciate the progress made by this parliament in reducing the duties on many articles of import, we at the same time deeply lament that her Majesty has not been advised to call our immediate attention to the repeal of those pernicious laws which prevent free trade in corn and provisions, so essential to the sustenance and comfort of the people, and to the prosperity of the state; and that we earnestly implore her Majesty's gracious co-operation for the repeal of those restrictive and prohibitory laws which give monopolies in sugar and other articles to certain classes of her Majesty's subjects, to the detriment of the rest, so that no duties may be levied on any imports, except for the direct purposes of revenue to her Majesty's exchequer. To submit most respectfully to her Majesty that an excessive and unequal taxation, disproportionate to the reduced value of property, the diminished profits on capital, and to the inadequate wages of labour, pressing on all ranks of the community, but especially on the working classes, is a principal cause of the existing distress, and that a reduction of the same is absolutely necessary for the relief of her Majesty's loyal, peaceful, and suffering people. That, as this country is, and, as we rejoice to hear, is likely to continue, at peace with all the world, we humbly represent to her Majesty that many branches of the civil, military, and naval establishments may be so greatly reduced as to procure for the people considerable relief from the pressure of taxation, without detriment to the public service."

Mr S. CRAWFORD, having first put a question as to whether he would be in order in doing so, said he wished to propose an amendment to the tenth paragraph of the address, which applied to that part of the speech having reference to the estimates. He wished to add to that paragraph the following:—"To assure her Majesty that her faithful Commons will be always desirous to vote such supplies as may be found just and necessary for the public service; but that, under the existing circumstances of the country, we shall deem it our first and most important duty to inquire into the various grievances complained of by her people, and to devise such measures as may be most effectual for redressing all just causes of complaint." His object was, that her Majesty should be informed that the people had deep cause of complaint for grievances which required to be redressed. That house was the proper organ of communication between the people and the Crown; there was no other organ of communication which the people possessed; and he thought, therefore, when that house addressed her Majesty, that it was their duty explicitly to inform her Majesty what the feelings and the wants of the people were [hear]. There were many grievances which the people complained of, and for which her Majesty's government had manifested no disposition to produce redress. Those complaints had been at various times represented in that house. One of the most important of those complaints was, that the people felt that they were not duly and fairly represented in that house—that, by the limitation of the franchise, the great majority of the people had no votes, and that, therefore, the members of that house did not fairly represent the people [hear]. If those complaints were unfounded,

why not inquire into them? Her Majesty should be informed of them, that if she thought fit she might desire her ministers to concede an inquiry [hear]. They complained that in consequence of such a bad state of representation, their interests were abused by class legislation, which was not calculated for the benefit of the whole community. They complained that there was an accumulation of capital and property in the hands of the few, whereby a tax was imposed which at once raised the price of the poor man's food, and prevented his employment. He would not enter into an argument at present as to the propriety or otherwise of the poor law, though he had a strong feeling upon that subject; but he would express his abhorrence of the policy which would deprive the labouring man of his food [hear, hear]. They complained also of extravagant expenditure—that the estimates were based on too extravagant a scale, and of an unjust and partial system of taxation, which levied more from the poor man than from the rich. They complained of all these things, and they could not so much as get their complaints even inquired into, much less redressed [hear]. Therefore it was that he maintained that those members who represented the people in that house should adhere to the constitutional principle of demanding that the grievances of the people should be heard before granting the supplies. Such a course was a constitutional course, and it was one, he contended, that should be resorted to on the present occasion. He conceived that the House of Commons was bound to cause the complaints of the people to be inquired into before voting away their money [hear]; and he further conceived it to be the duty of the members of that house to take all fair and reasonable means to procure an investigation of their grievances and their ultimate redress. It was too much the practice that the speeches made from the Crown did not contain references that were of any great value in aiding the object which ought to be brought forward for the consideration of parliament; but he thought, if those speeches did not contain such references, that it was the duty of the house to make them in their answer to the address from the throne [hear]. It was said by some that to pursue such a course would be discourteous to her Majesty. He (Mr Crawford) denied that it would be so, and maintained that it was only the duty of the house to inform the Crown regarding the complaints of the people, and that he thought would be the best means of securing the stability of the Crown and the attachment of the people [hear]. With this view he had brought forward his amendment, feeling it to be absolutely necessary, that when a speech contained nothing but accounts of prosperity, they (the House of Commons) should not omit to inform the Crown that in their opinion there was great cause of complaint, and that though there was an increase of prosperity in commercial affairs, there was still a great mass of the population suffering under destitution, and various other ills which a nation could scarcely be acquainted with and still pay obedience to the laws. He brought forward this amendment at the request of his constituency at Rochdale, from whom he had received the most pressing solicitations to adopt the course which he had taken. In the furtherance of their views and his own desires he deemed it right to propose the amendment which he had read, and in doing so he wished to be understood to mean no discourtesy to her Majesty. His only object was, as he had said before, to give her Majesty that information which he thought she ought to receive from the representatives of the people, and he would not now press it upon the house with any further arguments.

Mr WARBURTON, who made his re-appearance in the house by taking an early opportunity of speaking on a constitutional question, pointed out the difference between the circumstances of ancient and modern times. Formerly, when the Crown had its own hereditary revenues, and was in the habit of occasionally interfering arbitrarily with the liberty and privileges of the House, by sending members to the Tower, the stopping of supplies was a right which might frequently be very properly asserted. But in these more modern times, with our vast colonial possessions and complicated establishments, it was a serious thing to resort to the stoppage of supplies. Looking, however, to the condition of the country, approving of the principle of reduction of taxation, and believing that the estimates ought to be greatly reduced, he supported Mr Crawford's amendment.

Mr WALLACE, like the honourable member who had just sat down, did not intend to address the House when he entered. The explanation which he should give for his vote would be very different from that given by the hon. member for Kendal (Mr Warburton). He quite agreed with the statement which that hon. member had laid before the House relative to the history of the ancient practice; but he thought that such was now the condition of the people, that it was necessary to go a little further than they did then, or else the house might stand still (cries of "Oh!" and laughter); so he thought they should go a little further. He would not be confined by any such fastidious laws as the hon. member for Kendal had laid down, but would proceed to assist in stopping the supplies whenever the country was not fairly dealt by (uproar and ironical cheers). Yes, under any circumstances, he would stop the supplies (the hon. member's voice was here completely drowned by the ironical cheers which followed). Hon. gentlemen might laugh, but he hoped yet to have an opportunity of vindicating those opinions: he did not say when (laughter). Let the occasion be when it might, he would not be deterred from taking the course he deemed proper. He was not to be restrained by any fear of ridicule. Upon these

grounds he would support the hon. member for Rochdale.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL then rose, and after a preliminary observation, gave his opinion upon the proposal of the hon. member for Rochdale, for stopping the supplies:—

Sir, with respect to the motion of the hon. member for Rochdale, if he means to say that the House of Commons ought to have the power to redress in such a manner as the House shall think proper any grievances which the people suffer, I should say, that if the majority of this House is persuaded that it is right to inquire into certain grievances, and if they think that certain remedies are necessary, I know of no power of the Crown, I know of nothing in this address, which should prevent the majority of this House from agreeing to such inquiry, or from adopting such measures of redress (hear, hear). Therefore, if that be the meaning of the hon. gentleman, the insertion of this paragraph in the address is totally unnecessary (hear, hear). But if the meaning is, as I have reason to suspect by what the last speaker said, that a minority in this house is to stop the proceedings of the House—if a minority is to stop the supplies necessary, not for the purposes of the Crown, but for the purposes of maintaining the honour and safety of the country—if the meaning is, that a minority is to be able to stop those supplies until opinions, which are not the opinions of the majority, shall be forced upon that majority by continual obstruction and delay—I say that steps of that kind never can get my sanction, nor will I support any motion which tends to that end (cheers). I therefore think, sir, that in the first case, the hon. member has no need to introduce such superfluous words into the address; and, in the second case, I am glad to have an early opportunity of declaring my dissent from projects which I have seen proclaimed elsewhere and announced to the public, for forcing certain measures, by means of such obstruction and delay, upon a majority of this deliberative house of parliament (cheers).

With respect to what Mr Hume had suggested, about the want of opportunity to consider the topics of the address, the most convenient course, he believed, was that of modern days, which had been for the House to vote an address in general terms, reserving the separate topics for separate debates. On the subject of Ireland, particularly, it would be impossible to enter upon a discussion then without prejudging the pending trials. He would at present say only, that he was not willing to sanction the late measures of the government in that country. Glancing at the subject of our relations with China and with France, he touched on the improvement of trade, the main cause of which was to be found in the good harvest of the last two years, and consequent lower prices. With respect to the corn laws, he did not regard the experience of last year as proving much in favour of any theory. There were three doctrines—the old one of protection; the new one, which was the direct reverse of it; and the intermediate one, which proceeded on the ground that in a country, circumstanced like this, a change in the corn laws should be gradual; but the defect of the ministerial plan was, that now, when other articles were freed, the corn law was left to stand alone under restriction; it had not the strength which might have belonged to it if it had been bound up in a faggot with all other produce, but was in an isolated, and therefore in a weak, state. He ridiculed the complaints of those agriculturists who blamed Sir R. Peel, and expressed his opinion that it would have been inexpedient for the minister to pledge himself that he would adhere, under all circumstances, to his present law.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, after "hearty commendations" of the ability displayed by the mover and seconder of the address, applied himself to the amendment of Mr Sharman Crawford.

Sir, it is my intention to offer a decided opposition to the motion of the honourable member for Rochdale; more from what has passed in other places than from what he distinctly intimated to-night. I apprehend that motion is intended as the foundation of measures to be adopted for the purpose of stopping the supplies; and, sir, if I concurred in opinion with the hon. gentleman—if I entertained the opinions which he entertains with respect to the advantage of introducing more of the democratic or popular influence into the constitution of this country—I should be equally energetic in deprecating his motion ["Hear, hear," from Mr Hawes]. I can conceive nothing more injurious to the popular principle of the constitution than to abuse the privileges we possess, and which are calculated for our guidance on great occasions. The power of moving constant adjournments is a power of which it may be right that individuals or a minority should continue in possession, but it is intrusted to them, like other powers, under a great responsibility [hear, hear]: and they are seriously affecting the popular principle, and injuring those interests of which they are, I am bound to suppose, the sincere and strenuous advocates, if they lightly call into action instruments which ought only to be invoked on great occasions [cheers]. The honourable gentleman says that he will stop the supplies until the grievances of the country are redressed; why, what various opinions are entertained, both as to grievances themselves, and as to the best mode of their redress! And if the honourable gentleman, and those friends of his who entirely concur in opinion with him, were to form the government of the country, and possessed a great majority, they would be setting an example fatal to their own power of conducting the public business; for they would have set the example to a small minority, differing with them as to the nature of grievances, and as to the mode of redress, to obstruct the conduct of public business by themselves, by exercising the privilege intended for other purposes [cheers]. The privilege possessed by the minority is most important, as a protection against an oppressive majority; I have, however, seen no case in which a majority has been disposed to act in a manner to justify a resort to the exercise of that privilege; but, above all, that great instrument of which we are possessed—namely, the power of stopping the supplies—is an instrument which it is of the utmost importance to remain intact, and to prejudice the possible use of it on great occasions and emergencies by the inconsiderate and unjustifiable use of it, because a small minority differs from the great majority as to what are

public grievances, and the best mode of redressing them, would be seriously detrimental to the popular principle of the constitution. If honourable gentlemen have, at the commencement of a session, come forward with strong declarations as to their intentions in the course of that session, their own good judgment—their own sense of public duty—have generally been found to prevail over their rash declarations made at the commencement; and I have that confidence in the good sense and judgment of both the honourable gentlemen, the members for Rochdale and Greenock, that I am inclined to think they will feel, on reflection, that, being the guardians of the great popular instrument by which popular privileges, popular interests, and popular rights, may have to be defended—namely, the power of stopping the supplies—they will not discredit it by resorting to it on any trifling and unjustifiable occasion [hear].

It was expedient not to disturb unanimity in voting the address. Passing over Ireland, he enlarged, at great length, on the subject of the good understanding between this country and France. There was no secret engagement calculated to give offence to any other foreign power—no compromise or concession unworthy of each other's character or honour. It was of vast importance to the civilisation and welfare of the world that two great nations should thus understand their mutual interests, instead of rendering themselves the curse of the world, by setting up rival French and English factions in the bosom of other states, retarding the progress of free institutions, and the benefits of civilisation. Having cited the case of Greece in illustration of these remarks, and declaring his intention of abstaining at present from discussion on the state of Ireland, he came to the all-important question of the corn laws.

He was told (he said) that there were two courses open [great laughter]. I hope honourable gentlemen do not think that her Majesty's government are making any reservation with respect to this [hear, hear]. But when the noble lord shall think that, in the opinion of the agricultural portion of the community, protection may be set aside in favour of total repeal, I am strongly inclined to think that the noble lord will be the party to propose a fixed duty, and not myself [cheers]. But the experience of the present corn law has not in the slightest degree shaken my opinion in preferring the principle of the graduated scale to that of the fixed duty [cheers]. I gave it the preference at the time I proposed it, and nothing that has happened in the interval since then has induced me to change my opinion [hear, hear]. I say, therefore, now, as I said last year, though I should not, on the part of the government, think it consistent with the public duty to conciliate support by engagements to adhere, under all circumstances, to a particular law respecting the imposition of duties—yet I can with equal truth say, I have not contemplated, and do not contemplate, an alteration of that law [great and continued cheering].

The state of the revenue was satisfactory; the balance of income and expenditure had been restored; there was an improvement in most of the great branches of trade; and though there was still distress existing in the country, he considered that ministers had realised the expectations which they had held out, and that they met parliament under more favourable circumstances than had been witnessed for some years.

Lord PALMERSTON followed in a short speech, in which he criticised with effect the results of the foreign policy of the government.

Mr ROEBUCK protested against the doctrine that the address was to be deemed a mere ceremony. He thought it strange that the House was expected to be silent, and that the speech should have been silent on the most important subjects of the time, the corn laws, and the danger of a repeal of the union with Ireland. He believed that these topics were waived, because it was agreeable to the two leading parties that the evening should go easily off. But the time was surely come for expressing the opinion of parliament on the policy of the government respecting Ireland. The silence of the House on this night might have the worst effect on the question of repeal; it would enable Mr O'Connell to tell the Irish people that the British parliament took no account of them. He had himself intended to bring forward an amendment on the subject of Ireland; but after the course taken by Lord John Russell, the leader of the liberal party, such an amendment on this night was precluded; and it was fit that the people should know that the noble lord and his friends had deserted him.

Lord HOWICK considered that Mr Roebuck had grossly misrepresented Lord John Russell. Turning to the subject of the corn laws, he thought that Sir Robert Peel was no friend to the agriculturist in destroying all chance of the settlement of the question by what was certainly a fair compromise between conflicting interests—a moderate fixed duty. For his part, if he were reduced to the alternative of choosing between the maintenance of the existing law and total repeal, he would have no hesitation in adopting the latter.

Mr WYSE and the O'CONNOR DON followed on the subject of Ireland; and Mr MILNER GIBSON, Mr BROTHERTON, and Mr VILLIERS on the present condition of the country, and the corn law question. The three latter gentlemen each of them spoke upon Mr Crawford's plan. Mr GIBSON explained why he voted for the motion of the hon. member for Rochdale—

Which simply called upon the majority of the House to pledge themselves to redress the grievances of the people, at the same time as they entered into an undertaking to provide for the exigencies of the country. This appeared to him to be a rational and constitutional course. With regard to the forms of the House, he believed that those making use of them for the purpose of interrupting public business, would meet with little sympathy from the intelligent portion of the community, unless they were justly made use of for the purpose of suspending business when some unfair advantage had been taken, such as the forcing on matters in the absence of those who would have been present had they received due notice.

Mr BROTHERTON said he had been asked by his constituents to vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Rochdale.

He had told them in reply that he did not believe they would allow a minority in that house to waste the public time by fruitless endeavours to frustrate every measure, and impede the course of every discussion, with a view thereby to attain some particular and special end. "You would be the first," he said to his constituents, "you would be the first, I am sure, to object to such a course, and to blame me for delaying really useful business." He had, therefore, refused to vote for this amendment, but he begged it to be understood that he was not a whit the less anxious that every grievance should be redressed; and that, in opposing the amendment, he was only expressing his desire that the business of the country should not be neglected (hear, hear). Besides, he did not think that the amendment itself was the best means of attaining the object it aimed at, and with reference to motions of the same sort he had always strongly expressed his opinion.

(It appears by the division list, however, that Mr Brotherton did after all vote for Mr Crawford's amendment.)

Mr VILLIERS, after describing the "community at large" as the "victims" of the "landed aristocracy," concluded:—

And can you wonder at the hon. member for Rochdale, who comes forward with his motion, threatening even to stop the supplies, when such crying grievances as these exist? or that my hon. friend here, who does not even wish to go to such violent lengths as the hon. member for Rochdale, has greatly exceeded the just limits of his indignation, or that you ought to condemn him for his laudable conduct? or can you wonder at his wish to procure redress when such evils exist? Be sure that it is not now the time to regard those evils with coldness or indifference; and, in my opinion, a greater error could not be committed.

Mr GLADSTONE denied that he had written, or even seen, an article in the *Foreign and Colonial Review*, attributed to him by Mr Villiers.

Sir J. HANMER defended the landlords from the charge of selfishness. He expressed some opinions favourable to free trade, and especially as between the mother country and the colonies.

Mr SCARLETT spoke indignantly of the Anti-corn-law League, their assertions, and their attempts to dictate elections of members to constituencies with which they had no connexion.

Mr MUNTZ said, that employment had indeed become more plentiful, but that there had been no rise in prices.

Mr MARK PHILIPS represented the improvement in the working districts to be only recent, and not of a nature to justify conclusive inferences from it. He dissented from Mr S. Crawford's proposal of stopping the supplies.

Colonel RAWDON and Mr HINDLEY followed against the corn laws.

Mr FIELDEN, who had seconded Mr Crawford's amendment, then briefly addressed the House:—

He thought the amendment of the hon. member for Rochdale was not an improper one. What was to be done in the variety of opinions broached in that house? On the one hand, there were the members of the Anti-corn-law League, who told the House that, unless the corn laws were repealed, the prosperity of the manufacturers, now boasted of, would soon cease; and, on the other hand, the hon. baronet told them, that if the corn laws were immediately repealed, ruin and confusion would ensue. Who, then, was to decide between these parties? One party spoke for and represented the landed interests, while the other represented an immense portion of the wealth of the country, as evidenced by the amount of subscriptions raised in furtherance of their cause. This, then, was one of the grievances to be inquired into by the House itself, and it was only one of the grievances. Petitions after petitions had from time to time been presented from the people, setting forth the grievances under which they suffered, and which were still unredressed. The people complained that not one out of every seven of the whole male population had any voice in the representation of the country, and yet that they were taxed. They seek also to have a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and, unless this was secured to them, there would be nothing in the land but discontent and dissatisfaction; and, unless also the existing agitation in the country was put an end to, all confidence would be destroyed. Let these grievances be inquired into, and some remedy be provided, and then, and not till then, let the supplies be gone into. On all these grounds he had great pleasure in supporting the amendment of his hon. friend, the member for Rochdale.

Mr S. CRAWFORD explained, that he did not intend to make any attempt at obstruction or retardation, but only to move the consideration of grievances when supply should be proposed.

The House then divided,—

Against Mr Crawford's amendment... 285
For it 29

Majority against it 256

Upon a subsequent division upon Mr Hume's amendment, the numbers were—

Against the amendment 235
For it 49

Majority 186

Friday, Feb. 2nd.

DEBATING ON PETITIONS.

Mr WALLACE moved to rescind the standing order which precludes debating on petitions.

Sir ROBERT PEEL said, that in former days it was thought useful to allow an opportunity of speaking upon petitions, for the sake of members who wanted the confidence necessary for general debate. The confidence of members, however, was notably increased since that time; and undoubtedly their speeches, being now delivered in the course of regular debate, had more effect than heretofore. He trusted that the present practice, ratified by experience and convenience, would not be abandoned.

Mr BROTHERTON was quite convinced that discus-

sion on petitions was now quite impracticable, in consequence of the great increase in their number. In fact, the presentation of petitions would fall into the hands of a few members, who would occupy the attention of the House to the exclusion of everybody else, and of all business. Therefore, though not indifferent to the popular view of the subject, he was constrained to vote against the motion.

Mr WARD, who had formerly advocated discussion on the presentation of petitions, was satisfied that he was then in error, and that the present practice was the more convenient one.

Mr FIELDEN contended that the number of petitions had increased because of the increase of distress amongst the people; and therefore, if Mr Wallace divided the House, even if he "went out alone, he would go out with him." [This provoked laughter.] They must govern the people with reason, if they wished to conciliate them.

Mr WALLACE, though wholly unconvinced by any arguments he had heard, was not desirous of wasting the time of the House, and therefore withdrew his motion.

THE ADDRESS.

Lord CLIVE having brought up the report on the address, Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD moved, as an amendment, to expunge the paragraph relating to the Queen's intention to maintain the union with Ireland. It was inconsistent with the professed object of abstaining from all that could influence the trials now pending, to introduce any allusion to repeal. Sir ROBERT PEEL referred to the whole tenor of the speech in proof that there was no intention to produce that influence. Mr BLEWITT pronounced the attempt to prohibit agitation of the repeal question unconstitutional. After a longish and very desultory discussion, the amendment was rejected by 142 to 35.

In this discussion the subject of the Irish Attorney-general's conduct formed an episode. Mr ROEBUCK asked whether government had turned their attention to it. A calm, sedate, decorous behaviour was peculiarly requisite in the management of those trials; whereas there had been, on the part of that officer, the grossest breach of decorum—an attempt to violate the peace in the very midst of a prosecution for violating it. He could not but contrast the demeanour of the petulant lawyer of Ireland with the bright example set by the English Attorney-general (Sir Frederick Pollock), not merely of decorous bearing, but of a kindly feeling, which had had more effect upon the prisoners and their connexions than all the process of the law.

Sir ROBERT PEEL deeply regretted the observations of Mr Roebuck. He must adhere implicitly to the resolution of abstaining from any statement that could affect the trials; but he would say that Mr Roebuck's observations were much more severe and censorious than the occasion required, improper as undoubtedly the conduct of the Irish Attorney-general had been. He begged the House to make some allowance for human feelings under strong excitement. The challenge was not a deliberate act—it had been sent in the irritation of the moment, and it had been presently withdrawn. Under these circumstances the government had not thought it necessary to remove their officer.

Lord ELIOT, Lord STANLEY, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, Mr SHAW, and Sergeant STOCK, also defended Mr Smith, on the score of his general character. Lord Eliot pleaded that this was the single impropriety of which he had been guilty; and Lord Stanley said, so little of premeditation had there been in this unfortunate step that, only twelve hours before, the Attorney-general, in a letter to the government, describing the systematic attempts to entrap him into some error of this kind, had expressed a resolution that nothing should induce him to lose his temper. Sergeant MURPHY, Mr WYSE, Sir H. W. BARRON, and several other members on the liberal side of the house, censured Mr Smith's conduct, but the conversation had no further result.

Mr FITZSTEPHEN FRENCH attacked the landlord and tenant commission, the composition of which was an "insult to Ireland." Mr SHARMAN CRAWFORD applauded the conduct and diligence of the commissioners, before whom he had been examined; and Sir ROBERT PEEL indignantly reprobated this idle system of throwing out untenable imputations.

Mr THOMAS DUNCOMBE proposed an amendment recommending extension of the borough as well as county franchise in Ireland; but he withdrew it for re-introduction on a fitter occasion.

The address was agreed to, and ordered to be presented to the Queen.

Monday, Feb. 5th.

RAILWAYS.

Mr GLADSTONE, as president of the Board of Trade, proposed the appointment of a select committee to consider the standing orders relating to railways, and the course which it might be expedient for parliament to take with respect to applications for new lines or for new powers in relation to old lines. He intimated that it might be fitting to reduce the amount of deposit now required by the standing orders; and, having regard to the growing importance of the subject, he suggested that future railway bills should be referred to the Board of Trade before the introduction of them into the House of Commons. His present motion would not include any inquiry into the checks which it might be desirable to provide against the alleged abuses of existing railways. There were indications of a disposition to apply for competing lines; but such lines would not produce all those advantages to the public which are considered as attaching to competition in other matters; and he was not without hope that such advantages might be obtained from the good sense of the existing companies, without any unlimited encouragement to competing lines. The

object he chiefly desired was, a reasonable arrangement for passengers of the third class, which he thought there was a disposition to concede, and which he believed would be attainable without breaking down the fair principle of the general charges.

Mr LABOUCHERE wished to make the terms of the reference to the committee a little more extensive, lest the committee should find itself wholly precluded from entering upon an inquiry into the arrangements of railway companies not seeking any further aid from parliament. He could not think that competition was useless to the public in railway undertakings, and illustrated his opinion by the fact that parcels for Bath, of which it might be supposed that the Great Western Railway would have the entire monopoly, are frequently carried by the Southampton line.

Mr GLADSTONE said, that when a certain progress had been made by the committee, such additional references as should then appear expedient might be added by new instructions from the House.

Mr ROEBUCK was solicitous that nothing should be done that could fetter the House in examining and dealing with a subject so material to the public welfare. He insisted on the usefulness of rivalry by competing lines; and on the principle that parliament, after passing an act of monopoly, had a right to interfere if that monopoly was not used as parliament had expected it should be. The hardships now imposed upon third-class passengers on the Great Western line were an exemplification of this grievance. Having these views of the subject, he wished that there should be nothing to narrow the scope of the committee.

Mr C. RUSSELL (chairman of the Great Western Railway Company) gave some explanations respecting the accommodation of third-class passengers on that line, and stated that most of the companies were at this moment carrying this class at a positive loss.

Mr WALLACE contended for good accommodation to third-class passengers, and against the discretionary power of directors to raise fares.

Sir R. PEEL enforced the principle that there was a great distinction between parties coming for new enactments, and parties having invested their capital on the faith of enactments already existing. There might, indeed, be cases where parliament would have a right to control even companies long since founded and seeking no new powers; but he would caution the House to pause in such interference. They ought not to interpose merely because some railways produced profits larger than had been anticipated; the legislature which should do that would be equally bound to compensate those lines which had been productive of a loss. But, undoubtedly, the legislature would do quite fairly in checking abuse by authorising lines that would have a competing effect; and that power of parliament, and that probability of competition, constituted the true control on the existing bodies, who, he trusted, would see, in particular, that it was their interest to make fit provision for the third-class passengers.

After some further conversation, enlivened by some hearty denunciations of all railways from Colonel Sibthorp, the motion for the committee was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW MEMBERS.—The following new members took the oaths and their seats on Thursday evening:—Mr Warburton, for the borough of Kendal; Mr Pattison, for the city of London; Mr Campbell, for the city of Salisbury; Mr P. Butler, for the county of Kilkenny; Mr D. McNeill, for Argyleshire.

NEW WRITS were issued for the northern division of the county of Wilts, in the room of Sir F. Burdett, deceased; and for the borough of Devizes, in the room of Mr Sotherton, who since his election had accepted the office of one of the stewards of the Chiltern Hundreds.

SCINDE.—Lord Ashley gave notice, that on Thursday next, the 8th instant, he should move an address to the Crown, relating to the affairs of Scinde. Mr Roebuck gave notice that, on Tuesday, the 13th Feb. inst, he would move for a select committee to inquire into the circumstances out of which arose the aggressive war in Scinde, with a view of taking further measures to check the grasping policy which placed the armies of Great Britain in such a disgraceful position.

IRELAND.—Lord J. Russell gave notice that, on the 13th instant, he should move that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the present state of Ireland.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—Mr M. Milnes gave notice that, on the 8th of February, he should submit a resolution to the House, to the effect that it is just and expedient that a provision should be made by law towards the maintenance of secular Roman Catholics exercising religious functions in Ireland. On Friday evening, Mr Ward gave notice that, on Mr Milnes' motion being made, he should move an amendment, that no provision for the secular Roman Catholic clergy in Ireland could be just, or tend to re-establish the tranquillity of that country, unless based on a revision of the whole ecclesiastical system, so as to place all religious denominations on a footing of perfect equality.

REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.—On Friday evening, Mr S. Crawford gave notice that, on the motion for granting the supplies, he would call the attention of the House to the subject of grievances.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.—Intimation was given on Thursday evening, that government intended to introduce measures relative to charitable trusts, the factory act, and ecclesiastical courts.

CANADA.—In reply to Mr S. Wortley, Lord Stanley declared that the conduct and policy of Sir Charles Metcalfe had the entire support and approbation of

her Majesty's government. Lord John Russell asked if the government were prepared to produce the instructions which they had given Sir Charles Metcalfe. Lord Stanley said it was not at present convenient or conducive to the public interest to do so.

MR CRAWFORD'S AMENDMENT.—The following is a list of the minority that supported Mr Sharman Crawford's amendment to the address, on Thursday evening:—

Ayes, 29; Noes, 285.

Barnard, E. G.	Elphinstone, H.	Trelawney, J. S.
Bernal, Captain	Fielden, J.	Villiers, Hon. C.
Blewitt, R. J.	Gibson, T. M.	Wakley, T.
Bodkin, J. J.	Gisborne, T.	Warburton, H.
Bowring, Dr	Hindley, C.	Ward, H. G.
Bright, J.	Hume, J.	Williams, W.
Brotherton, J.	Johnson, General	Yorke, H. R.
Cobden, R.	Plumridge, Captain	
Collett, J.	Ricardo, J. L.	Tellers.
Currie, R.	Roebuck, J. A.	Crawford, S.
Duncombe, T.	Thornley, T.	Wallace, R.

THE OREGON TERRITORY.—In reply to a question from Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel said that negotiations with the United States on the subject of the Oregon territory were still pending.

THE CIVIL LIST.—Mr Blewitt wished to learn the truth of a rumour that her Majesty was in debt, and that a consequent increase of the civil list would be necessary. Sir Robert Peel gave this an emphatic contradiction, remarking that the whole course of her Majesty's life and habits might have shown that there was not a syllable of truth in the rumour.

POST OFFICE.—In reply to Mr Hawes, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the committee on the subject of the Post office would not be renewed this session, and that the paragraphs relative to projected reforms that appeared in the papers were without foundation.

General News.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

In consequence of the decision of the Chamber of deputies relative to the paragraph in the address condemning the legitimist proceedings in London, Messrs Larochejacquelin, Berryer, De Valmy, De Laray, and Blin de Bourdon, the Legitimist deputies, who repaired to London to pay homage to the Duke of Bordeaux, have tendered their resignation to the Assembly. M. Salvandy, the newly appointed ambassador to Turin, who voted against ministers on this question, has resigned his post. The circumstance appears to have caused a great "sensation" among our excitable neighbours. The resignation of M. de Salvandy, says the *Chronicle*, has created a great sensation in Paris. The previous excitement on the subject of the Legitimists, the animated debate which followed, the boisterous attack upon M. Guizot, which formed so extraordinary an episode in the affair, the desertion of so many of the friends of the ministry on the division, the subsequent resignation of the Legitimist deputies, and the remarkable conduct of the King himself, when, in the presence of the whole court, he took hold of the grand crown of the legion of honour, which M. de Salvandy wore upon his breast, and said, "I did not give you that to vote against my dynasty," are all incidents which give this affair a remarkable interest, and it is not to be wondered at that it is the subject of every conversation in the French capital. A strong effort was made to induce M. de Salvandy to withdraw his resignation, and advantage was taken of an official irregularity committed by M. de Salvandy, in sending his resignation to the King instead of to the minister, to say that the resignation had not been received at all; but the matter had gone too far, and it was evident that, to enable M. de Salvandy to keep his place, concessions on one side or other were required, which would have made a bad impression on the public.

The *Commerce* says that the Cabinet has at length determined to bring forward the dotation question. It adds, that the King considers the question as one of vital importance to his dynasty, and that, should it be rejected, he will dissolve the Chamber and appeal to the country.

The Paris papers of Sunday are occupied principally with the Queen's speech on opening parliament. The opposition journals, which so loudly decried in the King's speech the announcement generally, that "a cordial understanding subsisted between the French and British governments," now complain of that which they affect to call coldness in the paragraph of the speech in which the Queen refers to "the good understanding happily established between my government and that of his Majesty" (King Louis Philippe).

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

QUESTIONABLE PROSPERITY OF FRANCE.—The Paris opposition papers contend that the assertion in the King's speech that the prosperity of France was hourly increasing had no foundation; and in support of this proposition the *Réforme* publishes the following statistics of the misery existing in France:—"Of nearly 33,000,000 persons, there are 27,000,000 who do not drink wine; there are 31,000,000 who never taste sugar; there are 20,000,000 who never wear shoes; there are 31,000,000 who never eat meat; there are 18,000,000 who never eat wheaten bread; and, finally, there are 4,000,000 clothed in rags."

ITALY.—A private letter from Forli, in the Roman States, says a collision took place between the inhabitants of Castel Bolognese and the volunteers, in which several persons were killed and a great number wounded. At Ravenna the director of police had

been fired at, as he was entering his own house. At Ancona considerable excitement existed since the late arrests. The persons arrested have been sent to Bologna, where they will be tried by a military commission.

The *Mannheim Journal* says, that letters have been received from Vienna, which state that the Duke of Angoulême's health is in a very alarming state. They are afraid from hour to hour that he will sink under his sufferings. The Duke of Bordeaux was expected in Vienna on the 24th of January.

GREECE.—The *Augsburgh Gazette* announces the following addition to the proposed draft of a constitution. The king names the senators for ten years. The senate is to consist of from 27 to 40 members. Each senator is to get 500 drachmas monthly; the deputation to get one half that sum. The number of deputies to be 80. Chambers are to meet before the 15th of January, every year, and to sit at least two months.

GENERAL DUFF GREEN AT HOME.—At Washington Duff Green is quite busy with the President and cabinet. He is organising measures and collecting capital for the establishment of a daily newspaper in New York. It will be a free-trade Calhoun paper, and will be also an organ of the Anti-corn-law league of England.—*New York Paper*.

A project has been brought forward for cutting a 'canal of the Pyrenees,' to connect the Mediterranean with the Atlantic, and avoid the circuitous route by the coast of Spain. The plan, as it at present stands, was first matured by M. Galbert, member of the French Chamber of Deputies.

Accounts from Innsbruck announce the arrival of the Duke of Bordeaux in that town. He traveled day and night; but his progress had been but slow, from the accumulation of snow in the passes of the Tyrol. He was expected to arrive at Goritz on the 23rd of December.

NEW ZEALAND.—Wellington papers to the 21st of September bring no intelligence of great importance. Nothing further was to be done respecting the massacre at Wairoa, except the defensive measures already taken, until the arrival of Governor Fitzroy. Of the missing persons, one had returned, one was found dead, and two were still unaccounted for. The Nelson, which brought these papers, is the first ship that bears home a full cargo of New Zealand produce—oil, whalebone, and flax.

THE CHURCH IN PORTUGAL.—The Archbishop of Lisbon receives a salary of forty-two contos, the other bishops of the kingdom, thirty-nine, among them, making £18,225.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.—"The foreign powers," observes the *Siccle*, "make a great boast of their zeal for the abolition of the slave-trade, and they allow the Turks to sell and buy white women for their harems." "During the month of January last," says the *National*, "the Pasha of Trebizonde forwarded to Constantinople a cargo consisting of 230 Circassian slaves, mostly young women, intended for the Sultan's harem. This traffic is a direct violation of the treaties of Adrianople. It is expected that the Russian ambassador will protest against this act, particularly as there are several Russian subjects amongst those slaves."

DEATH OF THE INFANTA CARLOTA, CONSORT OF DON FRANCISCO DE PAULA.—The postscript of our (*Times*) Paris letter of Saturday evening contains the following intelligence of the death of the Infanta Carlota, consort of Don Francisco de Paula, and sister of the King of Naples, of Queen Christina, the Duchess of Berry, &c., at Madrid. This event derives immense importance from the prospect it opens of the marriage of her son with Queen Isabella, and the consequent settlement of the affairs of Spain.

SUDDEN DEATH OF PRINCE ALBERT'S FATHER.—His Royal Highness Ernest, (reigning) Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, father of Prince Albert, expired at five o'clock a.m., on Monday, the 29th inst. His Serene Highness, who retired to rest on the preceding night in his usual health, was seized with spasms in the intestines shortly before four o'clock, and, although medical aid was immediately at hand, such was the violence and severity of the attack, that his Serene Highness was a corpse within an hour. Baron Brandenstein, aide-de-camp to his late Serene Highness, left the palace of Saxe Gotha a few hours after the melancholy event had taken place, to convey the painful intelligence to her Majesty and the Prince Consort; but, in consequence of the immense quantity of snow which had fallen between Saxe Gotha and the coast, rendering the roads, for a time, impassable across an immense tract of country, the arrival of the baron in England was delayed. Ernest of Saxe Coburg was born Jan. 2, 1784, and was, consequently, sixty years of age. His eldest son, born in 1818, and colonel of the regiment of cavalry of the guard in the service of Saxony, succeeds him. The deceased duke was father of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, of England; brother of the King of the Belgians; uncle of the King of Portugal, the Duchess de Nemours, and the Duke Augustus, of Saxe Coburg; son-in-law of the King of the French.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY, CAMBERWELL AND PECKHAM.—A lecture was delivered in explanation of the society's principles and objects, on Friday, January 16th, in the Friends' meeting house, Peckham, by Mr John Jefferson; and another in Dr Steane's chapel, Camberwell, on the 26th, by Dr John Styles. A second public meeting was also held in Albany chapel on the 30th, Wm Cash, Esq., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Messrs H. Richard, J. Jefferson, and G. Rogers; also by Mr Rigaud, Mr Larritt, and Russell Jeffry, Esq. The attendance

on these occasions was from a hundred and fifty to two hundred, and upwards of a hundred persons signed the society's declaration.

POPULAR EDUCATION.—On Monday evening a numerous and highly respectable meeting was held at the Union chapel, Parish street, Horsleydown, for the purpose of adopting measures for forming day and Sunday schools, in connexion with the British and Foreign School Society, in that very extensive locality, and for the purpose of promoting education. The meeting was most respectably attended: there were present Mr Alderman Humphrey, M.P.; C. Hindley, Esq., M.P.; W. Wire, Esq.; W.H. Watson, Esq.; and the following ministers: Messrs James Sherman, of Surrey chapel; H. Richard, — Adye, — Lyon, G. Rose, and T. James, secretary to the Congregational conference. The chair was taken at half-past six o'clock by Mr Alderman Humphrey, who briefly addressed the meeting, observing that it gave him great pleasure to preside over so respectable a meeting, called for the laudable purpose of extending the benefits of a liberal education founded on sound and unobjectionable principles. Mr Adye came forward and read a succinct statement respecting the objects sought to be attained, from which it appears that upwards of 3,000 female children alone, within a quarter of a mile distant of Union chapel, are destitute of the means of receiving any instruction whatever. Mr Adye, after some lengthened details, added that he was sure if a school were erected in the neighbourhood, its benefits would, in a short period, most widely extend. The entire cost of erecting the same would be about £550, which he hoped would be shortly raised by the voluntary efforts of the friends of education. Messrs W. H. Watson, Lyon, James, Richards, and Hindley, afterwards addressed the meeting, and proposed resolutions, which were unanimously passed. Before the close of the proceedings a very large sum was subscribed.

Quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 4th of November, 1843, to the 27th of January, 1844:—

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Circulation...	£19,611,000	Securities...	£21,737,000
Deposits....	13,172,000	Bullion....	13,933,000
	£32,783,000		£35,670,000

The rule obtained by Lord Cardigan in the court of Common Pleas last week, in Lord William Paget's case, to bring it to judgment, has been discharged, upon a peremptory undertaking to try at the ensuing sittings.

At the Mansion house, on Friday, Barber, Fletcher, Griffin, and Mrs Dorey, were re-examined on the charges of forging wills, and, the evidence not being perfectly completed, were again remanded for a fortnight.

COURT OF ALDERMEN.—At a meeting held last Tuesday, Alderman Gibbs proffered some explanation of his conduct as churchwarden of St Stephen's, Walbrook. He said that he had acted throughout in strict conformity with the duties prescribed for him by a public officer of the ecclesiastical court, to which he was amenable; and the charge of refusing to produce his accounts before persons entitled to demand them was utterly unfounded; they were regularly kept from the time of his taking office, and regularly laid before the vestry. The accounts of the Margate infirmary had also been regularly printed and circulated. Alderman Copeland and Sir Claudius Hunter bore testimony to the correctness of Alderman Gibbs's conduct.

WESTMINSTER REFORM SOCIETY.—On Tuesday week a general meeting of the Westminster Reform Society was held at Stannard's hotel. Mr G. Huggett, the secretary, read the report of the committee for 1843, and congratulated the society on the improved aspect of their political affairs. The exertions of the society on the previous registration enabled the society to expunge the names of 594 of their political opponents from the list of voters, which tended to diminish their labour on the last occasion, as in most cases these persons were omitted by the overseers from the list. The late Registration of Voters bill had increased the costs attending the courts, but from the great care taken in making valid objections, a greater proportion had been sustained than in any other borough, and in no instance had they to pay any costs. The late revision had been favourable to the reform interest. The late decisions in the court of Common Pleas had been entirely in accordance with the views taken of the Reform act by the society. The effect of them would be to lessen their labour at the Registration courts, as these decisions were equal to statute law. Mr West observed that the decisions alluded to would tend greatly to promote the extension of the franchise.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.—The second weekly Metropolitan meeting of the Anti-corn-law League was held on Thursday night at Covent garden theatre. The platform was crowded with those gentlemen who usually take a prominent position in the discussion of this question, and long before the chair was taken the house, to its very topmost range, presented almost as crowded an appearance as it does on a night of free performance. Mr G. Wilson being called to the chair, Dr Bowring came forward amidst loud cheering, and said he heard it rumoured that it was intended to put down the Corn-law League with a high hand, and that perhaps that was to be its Clontarf meeting (laughter). If so, the members of the League would provide that the dispersals should take place legally, orderly, and constitutionally. Colonel Thompson said it was impossible the farmers and agricultural labourers could unite cordially with the Anti-League meetings, and instanced the burning of the hayricks as a proof (cheers). Mr Bright said the Anti-League party would be found,

if not more prudent, at least more practicable within doors than without, and when Sir Thomas Fremantle went round, with cautious whisper and bland smile, amongst the back benches, to request, in the name and with the compliments of Sir Robert himself, that hon. members would say as little as possible on the subject under discussion, the hon. gentlemen would prove as tame as they had shown themselves on former occasions, and the farmers would find themselves deceived, as they had been before (loud cheers and laughter). There was no hope but in beating down the stronghold of monopoly, and he had too much reliance on the virtue of his countrymen to doubt the result. (Here the whole of the pit audience, with some of those in the boxes, rose *en masse*, and greeted the speaker with loud cheers.)

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 7, 1844.

The papers this morning are more than usually crowded with interesting intelligence, the principal features of which are the important discussion in the House of Commons on Mr Crawford's motion; Mr O'Connell's speech in the Court of Queen's Bench, Dublin; the China and India mails; and the Devises election.

Last night Mr Crawford brought forward the following amendment, in the House of Commons, on the motion for going, *pro forma*, into a committee of supply:—

"That, whereas complaints have been made to this House on various occasions, by petition, to the effect that the people are suffering under unjust and partial legislation, and under the effects of monopolies of various kinds, political and ecclesiastical, created and kept in existence for the benefit of favoured classes; that, by the taxes imposed on food, for the support of one of these monopolies, the supply is restricted and the price raised, whilst at the same time the demand for labour is diminished and wages reduced, and the profits of manufacturing and commercial industry deeply injured; that the burden of general taxation has been increased to an intolerable extent, by an extravagant expenditure in every department of the state, and that this taxation is so imposed as to press most oppressively and heavily on the industrial portion of the community; that laws have been passed injurious to the rights of the people, and arbitrary proceedings of Government have taken place dangerous to public liberty; that, in order to sustain this system, an unconstitutional amount of standing army is kept up for the home service, and the ancient constitutional constabulary superseded by hired police; all which would be wholly unnecessary if the grievances of the people were redressed, and just and impartial government established; it is further complained, that these and other grievances are produced by the bad constitution of the Commons' House; that by the limitation of the suffrage, the long duration of Parliaments, and corruption and undue influences in the election of representatives, this House as at present constituted does not truly represent and is not responsible to the people, and therefore does not legislate for their interests; that, notwithstanding frequent respectful petitions presented to this House, the complaints of the people have neither been inquired into nor redressed; that from these causes an alarming state of discontent prevails generally over the United Kingdom; it is, therefore, the immediate duty of this House to make inquiry into these complaints; and as this House can have no right to vote supplies except as being the representatives of the people, it is imperatively necessary that the charges brought against its present constitution and competency in the petitions which have been received and recorded among its proceedings should be inquired into, and, if found to be justly made, redressed before this House shall proceed to the voting of supplies."

He prefaced it with an able and temperate speech, which appears to have been better received by the House than its wonted occasions of a like character, and which called down the commendations of the Premier. The treatment he received is a sufficient evidence of the beneficial effects this line of policy has already produced upon the House. It is impossible, in the present crowded state of our columns, to give even a summary of Mr Crawford's argumentative speech, which we are glad to find reported at considerable length in the daily papers. The following extract refers to his future line of proceeding:—

"He was prepared to say what he would do, if the House would affirm his resolution. He would then move, either that the House resolve itself into a committee of the whole House on an early day, or that a select committee be instituted to inquire into the present state of the representation. It might be said that the inquiry would last an immense time, and that the delay of the supplies during that time would be productive of great mischief. But suppose the Government should say that they were ready to go into the proposed inquiry, then he would be ready to vote the supplies for three, four, five, or six months, or for such a time as might be thought necessary for the inquiry. If he could get from the Government any promise of any desire or intention of instituting such inquiry, he would not impede the supplies. It was far from his wish to do so; he would rather induce the Government to do something for the people. Whether a minority of that House could succeed in stopping the supplies or not was a question that he would not, upon this occasion, discuss. He wanted a majority to go along with him in asserting the principle that the grievances of the people should be redressed before the supplies were granted. It was not his intention at present to go further, if the House would accede to that proposition. He would not say, however, what he might hereafter think it proper to do; but if any individual member would undertake or attempt to proceed in a course with regard to the supplies which should not be supported by public opinion out of doors, and a sufficient number of members in that House, he was not the man that would attempt it upon his own individual responsibility—(Hear, hear.)"

Mr W. WILLIAMS seconded the amendment in an admirable speech, replete with valuable statistical information, bearing on the grievances of the people. After a considerable pause, during which no one seemed disposed to address the House, Sir Robert Peel addressed himself to reply to Mr Williams and the amendment before them. He showed more desire than is his wont to combat the amendment with fair argument. One observation he made is too important to be passed over. It was to the following effect: "As he (Sir R. Peel) had stated on a former evening, he had that confidence in the good sense of the hon. member to believe that, unless he

was supported by a decided majority of the people out of doors, or a large minority within the House, he would not consider himself justified in taking such a course." If, therefore, a majority of the people support the proposition, the Prime Minister of the country, by implication, considers a minority justified in stopping the supplies. Here is a stimulus to energetic agitation, to universal petitioning! Mr Hume followed Sir Robert Peel with a qualified approval of the amendment and facts illustrative of class legislation. The debate was wound up by a hearty abuse by Col Sibthorp of the "poison," "venom," and "quack doctrine" of the League. On a division the motion was supported by 22, and opposed by 130: majority, 108.

The following is a list of the minority:—
"Barnard, Edward George; Blewitt, Reginald J.; Bodkin, John Jas. (Galway Co.); Bowring, Dr; Bright, John; Brotherton, Joseph; Butler, Hon. Colonel; Butler, Pierce Somerset; Duke, Sir James; Duncan, George; Ellice, Edward (St Andrew's); Fielden, John (Oldham); Gibson, Thomas Milner; Hindley, Charles; Hume, Joseph; Leader, John Temple; Plumridge, Captain; Scholefield, Joshua; Strickland, Sir George; Wakley, Thomas; Wallace, Robert; Wawn, John Twizell; Mr Sharman Crawford and Mr William Williams."

In the majority we are sorry to perceive the names of Thomas Gisborne, Alderman Humphery, Mark Phillips, J. S. Trelawny, and H. Warburton.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM asked leave to introduce a bill for amending the present law respecting labour in factories. He meant now to propose that, in certain manufactures, young persons, aged between eight and thirteen, should not be employed more than six hours in one day, and not both in the morning and evening of the same day; that those between thirteen and eighteen should not be employed more than twelve hours in one day; and that the same limitation should be applied to women above that age. He would propose restrictions also on the making up of lost time, and some further relaxations and remedies, such as holidays and compensations for injuries by machinery.

A discussion also took place on the appointment of the select committee on railways; many members justly complained that a large majority of those who formed it were railway proprietors. The appointment was therefore adjourned.

The proceedings in the House of Lords were of a desultory and uninteresting character.

INDIA.—The intelligence from this country is of a mixed character. British India is tranquil, and likely to continue so. The news from the kingdom of the Sikhs represents that country as far from being tranquillized. It appears that Gola Singh, the elder brother of Dhyani Singh, old Runjeet's favourite minister, who was assassinated in September last, had come from his mountain fastnesses to Lahore, under pretence of supporting his nephew, Heera Singh, who now governs there, under the name of the young Sovereign Dhuleep, and that his arrival had not produced the expected results. The state of the country is described as bordering upon anarchy. Many of the petty chiefs are anxious to proclaim their independence, and are ready for an insurrection, which is likely to happen as soon as the actual minister and his friends have collected all the money necessary to gratify their rapacity. The Afghan government is as feeble as ever in the hands of Dost Mahomed, and intrigues are afloat of various kinds. In the midst of these intrigues, Dost Mahomed appears to be unable to make the contemplated attack on Peshawur. Lord Ellenborough reached Agra on 11th of December. The army of exercise was ready near Agra, under the orders of the commander-in-chief, Sir Hugh Gough. The first brigade, led by General Valiant, was ordered to move towards Dhoolpoor, half way to Gwalior; it marched on the 12th, and the rest of the army moved in the same direction on the following days. The intelligence reached Gwalior, and produced alarm, and a council was held on the 15th. None seeming inclined to resist the British, a determination was adopted to surrender the cause of all the disorder—the minister named the Khaageewalla. This was effected, and the Khaageewalla was surrendered, and taken prisoner to Agra, where he was lodged in the fort on the 20th. The young Rajah, who was chosen to be heir to the last sovereign by the Bhasee, took refuge in the camp of the governor-general, who is now completely master of the whole kingdom, for it has fallen to the hon. Company as the lords paramount. The country may therefore be considered as subjugated. The sickness of the troops in Scinde continued; but the government were determined to retain the country, which was tranquil.

THE STATE TRIALS.—Since the commencement of the Irish state prosecutions the Court of Queen's Bench was not the scene of such deep public interest, extending to the highest class of society, and to all parties, as on Monday last, when Mr O'Connell addressed the jury in one of the most remarkable and powerful speeches ever uttered by him. We shall give a summary of the speech in our next number. The court adjourned at half-past four, on the understanding that witnesses for the defence were to be examined on Tuesday morning. There are about one hundred witnesses for the defence in town, but it is stated that, under any circumstances, not more than half a dozen of them will be examined. Amongst those likely to be brought forward are Mr. James Perry, a Quaker merchant, to prove the great advantages of the arbitration system in the mercantile court, called the "Ouzel Galley." The Solicitor-General is to reply upon the part of the Crown. It is stated that Mr. Sergeant Warren

intends also to address the jury for the Crown; but there seems to be some doubt as to the right of the Crown to a second address in reply. The trial is likely to close this week.

ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met on Tuesday, to receive the report of the sub-committee, with an address in support of the movement to seek the redress of grievances by moving amendments on motions of supply.

ADDRESS.

The following address was unanimously approved, and ordered to be printed and published:—

"The Council of the Complete Suffrage Union to the Friends of Complete Suffrage."

"It is at all times my anxious desire that any grievance of which my people justly complain, should be speedily redressed."—Victoria, 1844.

"Two hundred years ago the House of Commons resolved that the grievances of the people should be heard and redressed before the supplies were voted. The practice since then has been reversed, and the people have been given to feel that 'Any government having got their money, can then venture to spurn their complaints and reject their prayers.'"

"A few months ago, William Sharman Crawford suggested that the ancient principle and parliamentary usage should be restored, and that henceforward redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies. The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union unanimously and cordially approved of the suggestion, and recommended that reformers should make it 'the one question upon which to address members of parliament during the recess.' Subsequently the proposal was brought under the notice of large public meetings and upwards of thirty towns pronounced in its favour."

"On the 1st instant, parliament assembled. The speech from the throne informed the House that the usual estimates would be laid before them. This paragraph was made the subject of discussion on the 2nd, when Mr Sharman Crawford moved an amendment, expressive of the readiness of the House to vote such supplies as might be found just and necessary, but that their first duty was to inquire into the grievances of the people, with a view to the removal of all just causes of complaint. That amendment received the support of thirty-one members; a result which exceeded our most sanguine expectations, whether we regard the number who voted, or the moral weight which the names in the division list must have on the country. To those thirty-one independent members of the house the cordial thanks of the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, are eminently due."

"But the great majority of those present refused to give their assent to the amendment. They could not and dare not deny, that the House is bound to redress grievances before it votes the supplies. Either, then, by refusing their assent to the amendment, they declare that the people have no grievances to complain of, or that the House of Commons will not take the proper time to redress them."

"Sir Robert Peel admitted that the power to withhold the supplies is a privilege which belongs to the minority; intended as a means of protection against the acts of an oppressive majority. Hence it follows that, if the people can prove a case of oppression, they are entitled to call upon the minority in that House to use the power with which they are invested to demand and obtain redress."

"The whole question is thus narrowed to this point—Can the people make out a case of oppression? We maintain that they can. We affirm, and can prove, that the majority of the House of Commons is relentlessly oppressive, and does not represent the people. This, we declare to be the master grievance of which the people have to complain, and we earnestly urge you to request their true representatives in parliament to make the redress of that grievance the groundwork of amendments on every motion of supply. For this end the Council of the Union would suggest that public meetings should be held, where petitions to parliament and memorials to members might be discussed and adopted, requesting them to support those amendments; and earnest remonstrances made, where petitions and memorials fail of effect. If this course of action meet with your approval, no time is to be lost. The struggle has commenced in earnest, and the little band, who lead on the 'forlorn hope,' are prepared to engage in the unequal contest. They can only be successful with the people at their back. We earnestly entreat you, therefore, to give them all the legitimate and constitutional support you can command, and never to cease your efforts until the representation of the people be full, fair, and free."

MRS CAROLINE FRY.—We regret to announce the dangerous illness of this excellent lady. Until the last few days, hopes were entertained of her recovery; but it is now the decided opinion of her friends that she will survive but a short time. Mrs Fry, we understand, is in her sixty-fourth year.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Pees	Flour
English ..	1700	2880	1760			
Scotch						
Irish	380	1000			
Foreign ..						

No alteration, slow trade.

* Vide W. S. Crawford's letter to Joseph Sturge, Sept. 21, 1843.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"W. B. Harrison." Two of the numbers he requires are sent. The remaining numbers are out of print.

In answer to the communication from Leigh, we are bound to observe, that the hardships which parties feel at the conduct of Puseyite clergymen, in refusing to read the church of England funeral service over the dead of other communions, is inflicted upon them far more by their own superstitious affection for an authorised form than by the clergyman.

"Amicus." The subject is scarcely worth pursuing at the present moment.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7, 1844.

SUMMARY.

THREE cheers for our national prosperity! Some evil-minded persons have affected to doubt it; but the fact was established beyond further controversy on Thursday last, by—the Queen's speech. We have revived a good understanding with France; we have annexed Scinde to our Eastern possessions; increased taxation has, for the present, made our income balance our enormous expenditure; trade and commerce, like fragile flowers after a bleak season and merciless rains, are beginning to look upwards;—and who shall say we are not in a position to call forth hearty congratulations? There is nothing like putting a cool face upon an untoward state of affairs. Ireland is governed—no! not governed—occupied by five and thirty thousand troops; but as trials are pending in that country, silence respecting its wrongs is enjoined—the party enjoining it setting an example of delicate forbearance, by aiming a hard hit at the repeal agitation. England is stirred from centre to circumference by the corn-law question—the friends and the foes of the present monopoly showing themselves equally distrustful of the government, and appealing from it to the people out of doors. In almost every leading town, public meetings have decided that no force will be likely to compel a hearing and redress of the people's grievances, but the extreme one of obstructing the granting of supplies. In a word, discontent pervades all classes; the ministry is involved in inextricable embarrassments; men had begun to wonder how the premier would face even that parliament in which he can command an indisputable majority—and lo! at his bidding, forth steps royalty to congratulate the nation in set terms, upon the very hopeful and improving condition of its affairs. This is a fair beginning.

The Queen's speech is a marvelous composition—upon which no little ingenuity has, in our opinion, been needlessly lavished. It is a well-threaded series of smooth sentences, the object of which it is difficult to conjecture. The leaders of the two aristocratic factions, aware that their craft is in danger, agree in lauding, as characteristic of the highest refinement of modern statesmanship, the production of a document in terms so vague, and in import so utterly insipid, that all parties may concur in its adoption, as meaning nothing, and as pledging them to no opinion—no policy of any sort. The curious may ask—"Cui bono?" We will tell them. This is the most successful mode hitherto discovered, of damping down the ardour of an expectant people. The royal carriage, the cream-coloured horses, the military escort, the booming cannon, the Queen attired in robes of state, official pomp, and court etiquette, gewgaw, glitter, and mock-solemnity, constitute an atmosphere wonderfully unfavourable to the blossoming of that patriotism which springs up during a parliamentary recess. They cannot be dispensed with—and if employed at all, they must needs terminate in a speech from the throne.

We remember hearing of a lady, to whom a suitor was not an unwelcome visitant, sitting a full half-hour, on the gentleman's first introduction, in breathless and blushing expectation of an offer. The parties had been left alone expressly for that purpose—they sat in front of an old-fashioned chimney, from which protruded an iron band, drilled from top to bottom, for the accommodation of the pothook upon which to suspend the kettle. The swain looked mysterious, but for a length of time kept silence. The lady grew embarrassed. At last he spoke. "I've been thinking"—a pause—a fluttering of the fair one's heart—emotion flashing from, and quivering about, her eyes and lips—"I've been thinking," said he, with increased solemnity, "what a many

holes there is in that there iron!" Now, the sentiment he expressed, as our readers will, doubtless, allow, was harmless—unquestionable—but it was, also, an effectual extinguisher upon the kindling flame of love. Ministers act in the same way with the public. We are all feverishly alive upon some domestic questions of great importance to our interests. A recess passes away—and we look to the opening of parliament to relieve us from suspense. Well! the Queen is put forward by the dominant political party of the day; and she breaks silence by saying—nothing whatever on the questions which have enlisted our affections, but, that "she and France are upon capital terms, which is a very good thing for Spain and Greece." And with such tantalising nothings ends the melodramatic entertainment.

Then up gets a young nobleman in regimentals, and after him a gentleman in court costume, to move and second an address responsive to those nothings. Their speeches are invariably in the same style of humble oratory, floating in varied phrase about the topics suggested by royalty—just as boys learning to swim, who get on rather gracefully so long as their toes can touch bottom, and who, if by any chance they miss the solid beach beneath them, dip down unexpectedly below the mouth, which having filled with brine they flounder back again as energetically as possible, until they can once more feel ground. Lord Clive and Mr Cardwell fulfilled this very pleasing duty on Thursday last. They were the cabinet whistles in the Commons, as the Earl of Eldon and Lord Hill were in the House of Peers. All having been blown for the benefit of the pack which follow the heels of a prime minister, they were duly complimented and dismissed. And here, as far as the House of Lords is concerned, save that one has of course a stray speech or two from Brougham, closes the scene. Not so in the Commons. The leaders fully meant to be agreed—to say nothing about either Ireland or the corn laws. But obstinate meddlers somewhat spoiled their happiness. Mr Hume moved an economical amendment, and Mr Crawford a political one; so a debate and two divisions discomposed the puckered court smiles of the members and nominees of aristocracy.

The following evening, Friday, after a little instructive talk on the mode of dealing with the petitions of the people, in which Mr Brotherton distinguished himself on the cushioning side, Mr Sharman Crawford moved the omission of that part of the address which pledged the House to maintain the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland. Out of this motion sprung up a discussion upon Mr Attorney-general's *faux pas* in the court at Dublin. His ministerial friends, Sir Robert Peel, Lords Stanley and Elliot, and Sir James Graham, defended him in that under sort of tone which intimated a longing wish that Mr Smith would pack up his very small parcel of abilities and move off, carrying with him his inveterate propensity to bungle, and his ungovernable temper. It was remarkable, however, that in this assembly of legislators for the religious welfare of the people, the Irish law officer's crime excited no horror, and drew down upon him no reprehension—his blunder in venturing upon it at the wrong time was his real offence in the eyes of both his friends and his foes. The division on Mr Crawford's motion was, in favour of the amendment, 35; against it, 142; majority for ministers, 107.

The House of Commons was mainly occupied on Monday evening in discussing a motion of Mr Gladstone, President of the Board of Trade, for a select committee to revise the standing orders of the House, relating to railways. This growing monopoly, in which the capital of commercial men rather than of landed proprietors is invested, is treated with far less tenderness than that of corn or of sugar, and called out a much more lively concern for the comfortable accommodation of the labouring classes. We must not forget to mention, which we do with sincere pleasure, that, in answer to a question from Mr Blewitt, Sir Robert Peel gave an explicit and emphatic denial to the rumour that the affairs of her Majesty are in the smallest degree embarrassed.

Our readers will naturally inquire, now that Mr Sharman Crawford's plan of parliamentary agitation has been fairly launched, what support it has met with out of doors. First, then, the memorials of constituents to their members have been more numerous than we had anticipated, as well as more numerous signed. The meeting of delegates, held at the Crown and Anchor tavern on Wednesday morning last, gives promise, from the respectability of its character, of efficient provincial support. The evening meeting, had it not been swamped by paid and ruffianly tools of Feargus O'Connor, would have proved in every sense satisfactory. The company assembled to tea was large, and consisted of the right stamp of men—young, active, and intelligent. During the past week, meetings of a cheering character have been held at Leicester, Sunderland, Dundee, Arbroath, and other places. During the present month we trust every important town in the empire will send up its petitions in support of the patriotic "forlorn hope." The people have now an opportunity, if

they will avail themselves of it, of beating the aristocracy with constitutional weapons, and if now they fail in duty to themselves, themselves must bear the consequences of their inaction.

Anti-corn-law agitation has been proceeding as usual, but hitherto seems to have made but little impression upon the compact majority in the House of Commons. The Premier declared himself unequivocally against any alteration of the present law, and the Anti-league meetings which are now taking place, and in which professed ministerialists are becoming prominent, will no doubt keep him up to his pledge. We rejoice, therefore, to see, in the list of the minority who voted with Mr Sharman Crawford, the names of Villiers, Cobden, and Bright.

Of the Irish trials we have but few words to say. In our last number, we gave some account of Mr Sheil's speech in defence of the traversers. Since then Mr Moore, Mr Hatchell, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Whiteside, Mr M'Donough, and Mr Henn, have addressed the jury for the defence. We are unable now to mark the special qualifications which distinguished each of these oratorical efforts. The Attorney-general's challenge, to which we have elsewhere referred, will, doubtless, create an unfavourable impression against the Crown. Mr O'Connell was to have commenced his speech on Monday, after which it seems probable that but few witnesses will be put forward—the case being deemed sufficiently strong without them. A conviction is now more than ever problematical.

NO SONG, NO SUPPER.

THE tug of war has commenced. True to his own high character to his constituents, and to his avowed purpose, Mr Sharman Crawford, on Thursday evening last, led on his "forlorn hope" to the breach. Breaking through the conventionalisms of parliament, he redeemed his pledge to the people, by moving an amendment on the address. It was short, but emphatic, and this was its purport—"To assure your Majesty that your faithful Commons are always desirous to vote such supplies as may be found just and necessary for the public service; but, under the existing circumstances of the country, we shall deem it our first and most important duty to inquire into the various grievances complained of by your people, and to advise such measures as may be deemed most effectual for removing all just causes of complaint." The onset was well planned, bold, and direct. It was received, not as many had anticipated, with shouts of derision—but with that silent resistance which told how fearful a weapon the member for Rochdale has picked up, if public opinion will but strengthen him to wield it. Let us see how, in this instance, the little band of patriots sped.

The motion was seconded by Mr Warburton, the chosen knight of Kendal—

"Yon trembling coward who forsook his master!"

We should have been utterly at fault to discover what could have prompted this gentleman to join the member for Rochdale, but that we believe it to be a practical maxim of Reform-club tactics, to damage every movement which looks ahead of party purposes—not by a manly opposition to it, but by despatching to join it some crafty Ahithophel, whose advice and speeches may discredit the cause to which, ostensibly, he attaches himself. Mr Warburton shrunk from using the power allowed him by the forms of the House—first, because it would coerce the aristocracy instead of, as formerly, the Crown; and, secondly, because it was so tremendously effective, that no government adverse to the wishes of the people could stand before it. When Pym resorted to it, it was, although even then successful, far less stringent than it has since become. In the hands of a few determined members, backed by popular opinion, it would now prove irresistible. But this is far from being the kind of weapon suited to Reform-club purposes. It would serve the people at the expense of party. It would force on the actualisation of what the leading liberals find it to their account merely to profess. It would be Goliath's sword borne out to battle, instead of hanging in rusty ostentation in the armoury of reformers. Hence, Mr Warburton, whilst taking it in hand, eschews and denounces the policy of using it—and, rather than win the triumph of free trade, for which he was especially elected, by means of it, he would gaze in silent acquiescence upon corn and sugar monopoly for ever.

Mr Wallace gallantly stepped forward to the rescue, and maintained that the time had fully arrived for bringing the House to a stand-still.

The respective leaders of political party in the Commons delivered their sentiments, each after his own fashion—Lord John Russell, with that aristocratic *hauteur* for which his demeanour in opposition is chiefly remarkable—Sir Robert Peel, with that sensitive and trembling anxiety, which his position as prime minister exposes him to the force of. The whig was short, contemptuous, and arbitrary—the tory, fuller in the notice he bestowed upon the subject, more courteous in the tone he adopted, and disposed rather to deprecate the contemplated warfare, than to provoke it by sneers.

He admitted the existence of the privilege, availing themselves of which a minority could obstruct the movements of a majority. He admitted the propriety of this constitutional provision. He admitted that it was given for the purpose of protection, and that it ought to be preserved intact. And, hypothetically, he admitted that it might justifiably be resorted to on great occasions and on pressing emergencies—neither of which he seemed to think had yet arrived. He appealed, therefore, to the calm judgment of the member for Rochdale, invited him to re-consider his determination, and expressed an earnest hope that "his better sense of public duty would ultimately prevail over his rash declarations."

The question is now restricted within a narrower compass. Sir Robert Peel and Mr Sharman Crawford are at issue on this single point—whether a national emergency has arisen which demands from a small minority, in harmony with prevailing public opinion, a resort to that protective weapon which will enable them to defeat the designs of a majority, evidently hostile to it. If ever an occasion can overtake us, wherein to justify this constitutional step, assuredly it has already done so. Of whom is that majority composed? Of what are they representative? Have the people forgotten the profligacy of the last general election, when bribery and intimidation stalked barefaced into the sanctuary of every constituency, and wrested an electoral verdict in favour of land-proprietor nominees? Are they oblivious of the infamous disclosures of Mr Roebuck's compromises committee? Have they lost sight of the mode in which conscious guilt slunk away from the simple test proposed by Mr Duncombe? Is it not notorious as the noon-day sun, that the present House of Commons is not the result of the fair and unbiased sense of the people? Do we wait for an emergency? Look at Ireland, down-trodden, as at all times, by a dominant party—her multitudinous peasantry, pushed by misgovernment, upon the verge of starvation—the magistrates to whom she looked up with confidence unceremoniously superseded—her fine resources shamelessly wasted—her leaders arraigned for conspiracy—every right of the subject wantonly attacked in their persons—and upwards of thirty thousand armed men distributed over her land, purposely to cow them into silent and helpless submission. Look at Great Britain! five-sixths of her male population outlawed from the pale of citizenship—deprived by the corn laws and sugar laws of their right to buy subsistence in the cheapest market, and to sell their labour in the dearest—and, when reduced to want by class legislation, treated in union houses with greater severity, and in some instances, as recent investigations in Suffolk have brought to light, with a more revolting barbarity than the most hardened criminals upon whom the law is avenging its violated majesty. What did the general strike of 1842 indicate? If we are now partially recovering from the deep depression of four long years of commercial and manufacturing distress, to whose wisdom and to whose beneficence is the change to be ascribed? Another bad harvest would fling us back again upon precisely the same sufferings. Are not the interests of millions trembling even now in the balance of the legislature? Is there the smallest hope of redress from parliamentary patriotism or sense of justice? Has not Sir Robert Peel himself declared explicitly in favour of existing monopoly? The right of petition, has it not degenerated into a farce? Abroad our armies are pursuing, unchecked, the wicked policy of men in power, seizing upon and fleecing the defenceless, and annexing new states to our already overgrown dominions. At home, increased establishments, and an income-tax meant to be perpetual, are crushing our national elasticity and exhausting our resources; and are we to be told that the emergency has not yet arisen to justify the obstruction of this devastating policy?

Parliament, by a vote of 285 to 29, says "No!" From parliament then we turn to the people. Rouse ye from inactivity, ye sons of Britain—in every one of your towns and cities, rouse ye! Shake off your timidity! Come forth in your unanimity and enthusiasm! Quick! Quick! The occasion brooks not delay! Let Birmingham set the example, and let the people throughout the empire promptly follow it up! "Yes," or "No," is the response you are now called upon to give to the question of the premier, whether the present condition of the empire calls for a redress of grievances before voting the supplies. Up! then, and shout into the ears of a cabinet which can understand no other style of language—"NO SONG, NO SUPPER."

THE TEMPORARY TRIUMPH OF DEMAGOGUISM.

A WORD or two of comment on the indecent interruption, by Feargus O'Connor and his allies, of the meeting held at the Crown and Anchor tavern, on Wednesday evening, will be expected from us, nor shall we shrink from the performance of our duty, however painful. That a peaceful and patriotic attempt to promote the cause of the people against

their aristocratic oppressors should have been frustrated by an irruption of hired and reckless tools, is not surprising. The connexion between violent extremes is known to be close; and Mr Feargus O'Connor, if not an understood and recognised agent of torism, is, at all events, one of its most efficient promoters. His conduct, therefore, at the meeting in question, was only of a piece with all his proceedings from first to last. Friends of democratic principles, whether belonging to the middle class, or to the body of working men, will long have to rue the day when this hollow demagogue took them under his especial protection. But the case is otherwise with Mr Thomas Duncombe, member for Finsbury. His past services in the cause of the people have earned for him a respect worth cherishing and preserving. His association with Mr O'Connor in his northern tour last autumn, was viewed with regret, if not with suspicion, by many of his best friends, and certainly neither that regret nor suspicion will be diminished by the part that he took at the meeting under notice. It may suit his purposes to stand in open and avowed association with a man whose name is offensive in the nostrils of every honest politician, but Mr Duncombe will not be permitted to lead others into the same bad company. He may taunt the complete suffragists with being ashamed of the name of chartists. Is it wise to do so? Will the majority of his constituents thank him for the taunt? Are not the body of men, whose patriotic efforts he did his best on Wednesday night to frustrate, attempting to rescue the principles of the charter out of the filth in which Feargus O'Connor had succeeded in sinking them? And does he suppose that his own example will prevail upon them to continue that attempt under the auspices of Feargus O'Connor? We are deeply pained to be under the necessity of putting such questions to a man who has so steadily, and with such marked ability, advocated the cause of the people. We rejoice to see that, in disregard of his own taunts, he voted with the minority on Mr Sharman Crawford's motion, and we earnestly counsel him, if he has the smallest regard to his reputation for political sincerity, to withdraw himself from a connexion which will not elevate his fame, even among the working men, and which will assuredly destroy his influence with all other classes of society.

IRISH JUSTICE AND PISTOL PROSECUTIONS.

So! Mr T. B. C. Smith, the attorney-general for Ireland, has committed himself, by sending a hostile note to Mr Fitzgibbon, one of the traversers' counsel, under the very nose of the court, in which he was conducting a Crown prosecution for alleged breach of the law; and the Irish bench refuses to commit him. "The court," said the lord chief justice, "feel themselves placed in a very embarrassing and perplexing situation. They are unwilling to give any intimation of their opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of what has taken place in court, being willing to make allowance for the excited feelings of the gentlemen concerned in a case of this nature, which might carry them beyond what their cool judgment would approve of." And this is Irish justice, aristocratic justice! A law officer of the Crown, engaged ostensibly in vindicating the dignity of the government against misdemeanants, coolly proposes a challenge, offers to go out from the court and take his chance of committing a capital crime, and the judges "feel themselves placed in so very embarrassing a position," as to be "unwilling to give any intimation of their opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of the act!" Had Mr T. B. C. Smith been a common attorney, or had he occupied the position of any one of the traversers, every one can conjecture what course would have been taken with him. As it is, he is leniently regarded by the court in which he practises, and is openly defended by the minister in the House of Commons. Let us quote, for once with full approbation, the language of the *Times*:—"But who is to administer the condign punishment? Is it the Premier, who demanded the same satisfaction from Mr Joseph Hume and Mr O'Connell? Is it the great duke who, as Premier, fought Lord Winchelsea? Is it the mild and peace-loving Mr Roebuck himself, who has been principal, we believe, in two duels, and in both challenger? Mr Smith, it is most true, is 'caught in the very act,' and 'Moses,' in the law, 'commanded that such should be stoned.' But, alas! the authorities find their hands tied. 'Being convicted by their own conscience,' they dare not punish as a crime what their practice shows that they can only believe to be a misdemeanour. The House of Commons tacitly assumes that Mr Smith's act is one pardonable, if not obligatory, elsewhere, and only blameable as a breach of decorum on account of the *locus in quo*."

"Aye! There's the rub." The Attorney-general, Mr T. B. C. Smith, is but treading in the footsteps of the greater men above him, in obeying an aristocratic conventionalism in preference to the laws of God and of his country. The makers and the administrators of law for this empire are all of a class who set at nought the dictates of conscience when they come athwart the arbitrary maxims of honour, or, in other words, of clique regulations. Senators, judges, and official pleaders—all hide the

crime, and regret nothing but the blunder. How can men pretending to religion support a system of government which produces such results?

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

Birmingham, Feb. 5, 1844.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met this afternoon—the President in the chair. Letters were read from Wycombe, Sunderland, Oxford, Edinburgh, Rochdale, Sheffield, Dudley, Liverpool, Cranbrook, Montrose, &c., all of them on the subject of the movement to obtain redress of grievances by moving amendments on the supplies.

The deputation appointed to visit Northampton in support of Mr Crawford's proposal, reported that they had held an excellent meeting there—that resolutions in favour of the proposal were agreed to, with only two dissentients—and that Mr R. Currie, one of the members for the borough, had complied with the request of a large number of his constituents, in supporting Mr Crawford's amendment on the address.

The Council reviewed the proceedings in London in connexion with the proposal, and were highly gratified to find that the number that supported the amendment exceeded their most sanguine expectations. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the thirty-one members who voted for the amendment that the duty of government is to redress grievances before voting the supplies.

A draft address, recommending the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom to get up a vigorous agitation in continued support of the plan, until the people are fully, fairly, and freely represented, was referred to a sub-committee, and the Council adjourned till Tuesday, to receive the report.

REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.—MR CRAWFORD'S PLAN.

CONFERENCE AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR.

On Wednesday a meeting of the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, of justice to Ireland, and of universal peace, was held at the Crown and Anchor, to consider the proposal to seek redress of grievances by moving amendments on motions of supply. The meeting was convened by circular, and was most numerously and respectfully attended. Among those present were the following gentlemen:—From Liverpool—C. E. Rawlins, Esq.; Manchester—Richard Gardner, Esq., of the Inner Temple; Leeds—Messrs J. Paterson and W. Hartley; Birmingham—Joseph Sturge, Esq., president of the National Complete Suffrage Union, and Messrs Perry, Wilson, Goodrick, and Albright; Coventry—Mr W. Osborne; Leicester—W. Parker; Worcester—R. Hardy, Esq.; Nottingham—Thomas Beggs; Exeter—Edward Davy, Esq.; Norwich—Messrs J. H. Tillett and J. Coleman; Ipswich—John King, editor of the *Suffolk Chronicle*; Colchester—J. R. Harvey; Rochester—Messrs J. and F. Wheeler, and B. Styles; Maidstone—J. Strange; Sudbury—Edward Wright; Oxford—Mr B. Godwin, and J. Towle, Esq.; Uxbridge—Henry Hull, Esq.; Croydon—P. A. Taylor, Esq.; Edward Miall, Esq., and Mr C. Stovel, of the Anti-state-church Convention; Dr Lee and Mr John Jefferson, of the Peace Association. From Scotland—J. Dunlop, Esq., of Edinburgh; W. Tullis, from Fifeshire; and a large number of influential gentlemen from various districts of the metropolis.

Letters, warmly approving of the object of the meeting, and regretting inability to attend, were read from a large number of gentlemen and ministers in various parts of the country.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., was called to the chair, and, after briefly stating the nature of the proposed plan of parliamentary action proposed by Mr Crawford during the present session of parliament, and replying to various objections urged against it, said he should lay before them some facts connected with the early history of the practical application of this principle, and endeavour to show that they apply with equal force to the circumstances of the present day:—

In the year 1614, John Pym was returned to parliament, for the borough of Calne. Conscious of the misgovernment which then prevailed, he set himself at once to seek redress of grievances by committees of inquiry, substantive motions, and incessant discussions in the House of Commons. He was ably assisted by a small but honest band of patriots, and for many years continued to oppose the unrighteous demands of the aristocracy, and to resist the encroachments of the Crown. But all his efforts were comparatively fruitless. In 1621 John Hampden was returned to parliament. Not many years afterwards they resolved to try a new principle of action. That principle was, to make the voting of supplies conditional on the redress of grievances [hear, hear]. This was resolved on during the reign of Charles the First, and, as a preliminary step, Pym and Hampden went to all the English counties, and urged the people to meet and send petitions to the House of Commons as soon as possible after it had assembled, and thus petitioning parliament was first organised as a system. The result of that movement, says Lord Nugent, in his "Memorials of Hampden," was sensibly felt the day after the delivery of the King's speech, when several county members rose and presented petitions from their respective counties, complaining of grievances. That parliament was opened the 3rd of April, 1640, when the king said—"My lords and gentlemen—There never was a king that had a more great and weighty cause to call his people together than myself. I will not trouble you with the particulars. I have informed my Lord Keeper, and commanded him to speak, and desire your attention [applause]." And the Lord Keeper concluded his speech by observing that "his majesty did not expect advice from them, much less that they should interpose in any office of mediation, which would not be too grateful to him; but that they should, as soon as might be, give his majesty a supply, and that he

would give them time enough afterwards to represent any grievances to him." Pym now rose, and laid such a statement of grievances before the House that, servile as it was, it hesitated to vote the supplies. The introduction of Pym's speech is remarkable. He said: "Never parliament had greater business to despatch, nor more difficulties to encounter; therefore we have reason to take all advantages of order and addresses, and hereby we shall not only do our own work, but dispose and inable ourselves for the better satisfaction of his majesty's desire of supply. The grievances being removed, our affections will carry us with speed and cheerfulness to give his majesty that which may be sufficient both for his honor and support. Those that, in the very first place, shall endeavour to redress the grievances, will be found not to hinder, but to be the best furtherance of his Majesty's service. Hee that takes away weight doth as much advantage motion as he that addeth wings." And of all the grievances he complained of, monopolies were characterised as the most oppressive. The effects of these monopolies he thus truthfully describes:—"These burdens are so excessive that trade is thereby very much hindered, the commodities of our own growth extremely abated, and those imported much exhausted; all which lies, not upon the merchant alone, but upon the generalitie of the subject; and by this means the stock of the kingdom is much diminished, our exportation being lesse profitable, and our importation more changeable." When Pym resumed his seat, says Lord Clarendon, the King's solicitor, Herbert, attempted, "with all imaginable address, to call off the attention of the members from the impression his extraordinary speech had made; but vainly. The deadly force of Pym's statements and reasoning, equaled only by the singular moderation of his tone, had diffused through the House a deep and settled calm of determination."

Mr Sturge concluded by saying, that what they wanted was, that if the people's money was to be voted, the people's grievances ought first to be redressed. That was the constitutional, just, and necessary course which it was intended to take; and it would be for them now to express their opinion on it.

P. A. TAYLOR, Esq. (of the firm of Courtauld, Taylor, and Courtauld, City), suggested that the meeting should recommend that the terms of the amendment on the address should be as general as possible, so as to admit of the co-operation of all classes of reformers. This suggestion was finally carried into effect in the wording of the resolution which follows.

Mr EDWARD MIALI, Mr J. H. WILSON, Mr DAVY, Mr WM TULLIS, of Markinch, Scotland, and others, addressed the meeting. After a good deal of interesting conversation,

J. DUNLOP, Esq., of Brockloch, Edinburgh, moved—
"Resolved—That this meeting have learned, with the highest satisfaction, that it is the intention of a few independent members of parliament to move an amendment on the address in answer to the speech from the throne, embodying the constitutional principle that the grievances of the people should be investigated and redressed before the supplies are voted; that, in the deliberate judgment of this meeting, the alarming condition and prospects of the country render such a course of action no less necessary than just; that, being admirably calculated to obtain for the people the removal of all obstructions thrown by the government and the legislature in the way of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, justice to Ireland, and universal peace, we hereby offer to those independent members of parliament who have expressed their readiness to give effect to it, an earnest assurance of our warmest sympathy, and determination to strengthen their hands, and to encourage them to persevere by using every legitimate effort."

Mr Dunlop quoted several precedents, to show the principle had been frequently applied in former, and even in recent, times; and contended that its application was indispensably necessary in the present state of the country.

P. A. TAYLOR, Esq., seconded the motion.

Mr C. STOVEL; J. G. GARDNER, Esq., Inner Temple; J. DUNCAN, Esq.; Mr C. BAKER, Stockport; C. RAWLINS, Esq., of Liverpool, and others, spoke to the motion. It was then unanimously passed, and a deputation appointed to wait on a number of the members of parliament, who had been invited to meet at Brown's hotel, Palace yard, at eleven o'clock on the following day.

The meeting then separated.

SOIREE AT THE CROWN AND ANCHOR.

On Wednesday evening, a large meeting took place at the Crown and Anchor, designed by the friends of complete suffrage, in the metropolis, to demonstrate public sympathy for their principles; and also for Sharman Crawford's proposed line of action. The large room was filled with a highly respectable company, who took tea. Among them we observed Joseph Sturge, Esq., Birmingham; G. Goodrick, Esq., ditto; A. Albright, Esq., ditto; W. Tillett, Esq., Norwich; Mr E. Miall; Mr T. Spencer, Bath; Mr C. Stovel, London; Mr E. Halliday, London; Dr Epps, London; Henry Vincent, London; Dr Bowring, M.P.; W. Davy, Esq., Crediton; Richard Gardiner, Esq., Manchester; Thomas Beggs, Esq., Nottingham; W. Coates, Esq., London; J. Richardson, Esq., ditto; P. Crellin, Esq., ditto; Mr B. Woodyard, ditto; C. E. Rawlins, Esq., Liverpool; Mr Hare, of the *Patriot*; R. Clarke, Esq., of Snaresbrook; Dr Thomas Price; Mr B. Godwin, Oxford; Mr E. Halliday; W. Tullis, Esq., Markinch; J. Dunlop, Esq., Edinburgh; W. Lovett; Mr S. Green, Walworth; J. Duncan, Esq.; E. Chrimes, Rotherham; W. Hollis, Cheltenham; J. Wilson, Birmingham; and a number of gentlemen deputed from provincial towns. After tea, the tables were removed for the accommodation of a larger number of persons, and the room was soon densely crowded. Until the arrival of Mr Crawford, Mr Sturge occupied the chair, and Dr Bowring addressed the meeting in support of the principles they were assembled to advance, and concluded by proposing, as a sentiment, "The People." Mr Sharman Crawford having now arrived and taken the chair, proceeded to address the meeting in reference to the course to be pursued during the present session of parliament, in the course of

which he was much cheered. Mr Duncan then seconded the sentiment proposed by Dr Bowring; after which Mr Spencer proposed the next sentiment, to this effect—"The advocates of the people's rights, and may the day not be far distant when their efforts may be crowned with success, and that they may be enabled to legislate for the benefit of the whole community." The speaker declared that was all the meeting required, and pleaded the cause of the working classes. Mr Charles Hindley, M.P., next addressed the meeting, but amidst considerable interruption from the chartists.

With the conclusion of Mr Hindley's speech the regularity of the proceedings may be said to have terminated. First a working man (a chartist) took possession of the table, and made several vain attempts to be heard, amidst the vociferous cheerings of his own friends, and the opposition of those who desired that the business of the meeting should proceed in the order which had been set. Then Mr Feargus O'Connor rose amidst the most vociferous acclamations of his partisans, and expressed his intention of making an address to the meeting after the next speaker should have concluded. Dr Price was then allowed to make a few observations, but was soon stopped by the increasing uproar of the chartists. Mr Feargus O'Connor followed, requiring the meeting, amidst the noisy demonstrations of his friends, to adopt the charter, name and all. Mr Duncombe succeeded, and, to the surprise of most of the persons present, proceeded to ridicule Mr Crawford's proposal, on the ground that he would obtain but a feeble support in the House. Mr Sturge attempted to reply, but was not allowed to proceed far by the chartists, who were persevering in their interruptions. The uproar continued to increase, and Mr Duncombe called for a show of hands in favour of the charter, which was carried by a large majority. All attempts to restore order being ineffectual, the meeting was declared to be dissolved, and the chartists, or rather those parties who are hired for occasions like the present, and whom it is convenient to whigs and Tories to designate as chartists, were left in undisturbed possession of the room. The following fact, taken from a weekly contemporary, requires no comment:—"To-day (Thursday) a friend called at our office, and informed us that, after the meeting had concluded, he went in company with several chartists to procure refreshment, and he gathered from them that tickets had been plentifully distributed for the purpose of overthrowing the meeting. From what he heard he supposes ten pounds worth. One man told him he had twenty shillings worth to give away to men who would do the work." In reference to the meeting, the treasurer and secretary to the committee (Messrs S. Allen and C. Elt), have written a letter to the *Morning Advertiser*, from which we extract the following:—

"That the character of the great bulk of the working men of London, and their unquestionable claim to the parliamentary franchise may not be prejudiced by the exhibition that took place, we think it right to state that we are in possession of evidence that fully satisfies us, and which we are prepared to submit to the inspection of the member for Finsbury, that instead of the conduct of a minority of that meeting (for it was but a minority at last) representing the honest spontaneous expression of public opinion, it was the result only of a preconcerted design between some who possessed pecuniary means, and a multitude of the lowest characters, who lent themselves, at the price of admission, to disturb and defeat the object of the meeting. The well-known character of some of the most conspicuous, the half-clothed appearance of others, the atrocious language addressed to some gentlemen of the middle class, the loud calls for O'Connor and Duncombe to precede other speakers, bespoke too plainly the objects of a considerable minority of the meeting. * * * Though prepared for the opposition they experienced, they were not prepared for the character which the member for Finsbury assumed on that occasion, to their equal astonishment and disgust. He has the questionable distinction of receiving the loud applause, and of being claimed as the champion, of men who stand in the position of being the very first to interrupt and clamour down the President of the Suffrage Union. Never, from the first hour since our excellent friend Joseph Sturge has asserted his adherence to the principles of the charter, though he has attended meetings of chartists without number, had he been denied a hearing until the men who clamoured 'Go it, Duncombe,' suppressed the sound of his voice on Wednesday evening, at the Crown and Anchor."

MEETING AT BROWN'S HOTEL, PALACE YARD.

On Friday morning a second meeting of the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, of justice to Ireland, and of universal peace, was held at Brown's hotel, Palace yard; P. A. Taylor, Esq., in the chair.

Mr TAYLOR said he congratulated his friends present on the result of their decision and firmness yesterday, in adhering to their previous resolution, that they had learned with high satisfaction that an amendment was to be moved on the address, embodying the constitutional principle that redress of grievances should precede the voting of the supplies. It was that resolution that gave energy and courage to Mr Crawford, when at first it appeared to be doubtful whether the proposer and the seconder would not have to walk out of the house alone [hear, hear]. The result of the division had far exceeded their expectations [hear]. Their anti-corn-law friends had come out. He trusted they would have seen it to be their duty to have voted with Mr Crawford under any circumstances, but, no doubt, the declaration of Sir Robert Peel on the corn laws had great effect in bringing them out on the amendment [hear, hear]. He then replied, at some length, to the arguments employed by Mr Warburton and Lord John Russell, in opposition to Mr Crawford's plan. He concluded by suggesting that the people should now be urged to support Mr Crawford and his friends

by memorials to the members, and petitions to the House, expressive of their grievances and praying for redress, and sat down amid the warm applause of the meeting.

JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., also congratulated the meeting on the stand they had taken in order to encourage Sharman Crawford to persevere. He had seen Sharman Crawford at his hotel that morning, and he was greatly pleased with the result of last night's division. He (Mr Sturge) had seen the division list, and all he could say about it at that time was, that it must have a powerful moral effect on the country [hear, hear]. He was much pleased with last night's proceedings. He was present during the whole debate, and instead of the noise and uproar which frequently characterised the proceedings of that House, he found all seriously engaged in the business before them [hear, hear]. None of the speeches will do us more good than that of Sir Robert Peel. He did not say that Sharman Crawford had not the power to compel a majority to investigate complaints and redress grievances; but he contended that he was not justified in resorting to a measure which should only be used on extreme occasions [applause]. He thought every argument used last night was in our favour. None of the speakers denied that the principle was constitutional, and Sir R. Peel admitted that an extreme case might justify its application. Mr S. then moved the resolution, which will be found in our advertising columns.

J. DUNLOP, Esq., of Brockloch, Edinburgh, seconded the motion. He said he was no less struck than Mr Sturge with the solemn and serious reception which the amendment met with last night. There was no cheering, no noise; and the manner in which the subject was treated by all the speakers on both sides of the House showed that they felt they were discussing a subject of the utmost importance [hear, hear].

Mr J. H. WILSON supported the motion; and, after mentioning the principal points contained therein, said they had begun well, and with honest perseverance they would end well [hear, hear]. Mr Warburton, and others on that side of the house, assumed that the movement contemplated the absolute stopping of the supplies, and thus throw the whole affairs of the country into confusion. Never was there a greater mistake [hear]. They had no wish to stop the supplies. Mr Crawford distinctly said so in the House last night. The supplies could only be stopped in one way, and that was by a positive refusal to inquire into the people's complaints, with a view to redress the people's grievances. As Mr Albright stated on Tuesday, they would complain of grievances, demand inquiry into those complaints, and if government refused to remove the causes, whenever they were proved, then let government take the responsibility of obliging the real representatives of the people so to act as to cause a proper hindrance of supplies [hear, hear]. The onus would thus be thrown on government, and it was right that it should be so [hear, hear].

Mr ALBRIGHT briefly commented on the discussion in parliament on Mr Crawford's plan.

Mr EDWARD DAVY, of Crediton, said, he rose not for the purpose of offering any objection to the resolution which had been proposed, for he fully concurred in every word of it, but it would have been still more satisfactory to him if it had contained some more direct and decided reference to Ireland, and to the peculiar circumstances and position of our Irish brethren. The circular which he had received emphatically invited to that meeting the friends of justice to Ireland, and he thought they would be wanting in due attention to that object, if they did not express their deep sympathy with their oppressed and suffering fellow subjects. He thought it important that they show to the people of that unhappy country, and also to the British government, that in England there were some, at least, who were anxious to do justice; and who, while they deprecated all unlawful proceedings, were prepared to resist every encroachment on civil rights or religious liberty. The eye of England and of Ireland would probably look to what they did on that occasion, and he desired they should adopt a resolution which would tend to rally round them all the true friends of freedom and justice, and to stay the government in the unwise and dangerous course which they were pursuing. He felt that it would be uncourteous to move an amendment on the resolution which had been submitted, but he should be glad if the sentiments which he had expressed could be embodied in it.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the resolution should be put as it stood, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr C. BAKER, independent minister, of Stockport, suggested that they should now consider what steps the country should adopt to support Mr Crawford and his friends, in working out the principle.

Mr STURGE said, John Fielden attached great importance to petitioning Parliament. He recommended the holding of public meetings to petition, because meetings got up for that purpose were much more safe in present circumstances than meetings called to discuss general questions of public interest. He thought there was much force in John Fielden's arguments, and though many people thought it useless to petition the present House of Commons, he hoped they would not lose sight of that great constitutional right. He would suggest that meetings should be held, and petitions adopted, and every other legal and constitutional step taken to encourage those who were willing to work out the principle of moving amendments on the supplies, until the people's grievances were heard and redressed.

Mr TULLIS, of Markinch, thought that if they were to have petitions they should be got up and passed at public meetings, and contain statements of griev-

ances on which distinct amendments should be based [hear, hear].

Mr THOMAS BEGGS was very anxious that the people should now rouse themselves everywhere to support Mr Crawford and his friends in their patriotic attack on the strongholds of the aristocracy, and begged to move—

"That in view of the arduous and difficult duties which perseverance in the course of action indicated by Mr Crawford's amendment will necessarily involve, this meeting most earnestly recommends the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom to hold public meetings, get up petitions to parliament expressive of their respective grievances, memorialise their representatives to support them, and take such other legal and constitutional steps as may seem best calculated to give practical effect to the principle in parliament."

Mr MORRIS, of London, seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Mr W. S. CRAWFORD, M.P., now entered the room, and was most cordially received. He said: I have called to tell you what course I now intend to pursue. I think the attack was fairly begun last night. I intend to continue the battle without interruption [applause]. I intend to give notice this evening that I will bring forward an amendment on the first motion that the House resolve into a committee of supply. That motion will come on in a few days. It has generally been a motion *pro forma*—we intend now to make it a real question, and to raise a real discussion on it [applause]. I intend simply to give notice of an amendment for a redress of grievances. I shall take time to consider the terms of that amendment, and, by consultation with my friends, endeavour to make it as broad as shall embrace as great a number of grievances as possible, and thus obtain the largest measure of support [hear, hear]. By giving notice of that amendment to-day I shall give early intimation to the House that, in as far as in me lies, I shall follow up the course we have begun, and prove to the country that we are determined to fight the battle vigorously [much applause].

In answer to a question from Mr Albright, Mr CRAWFORD said it was not necessary that notice of amendments on supply motions should be given; but in this case he thought it necessary, as it was the commencement of an unusual mode of action, and would show to the public the course he intended to take.

Mr TAYLOR having to leave, a vote of thanks was cordially passed to him.

Mr STURGE was then called to the chair. He said there was a motion to be brought forward which he was sure the meeting would be ready to hear, as it referred to Ireland [hear].

JOSIAH PUMPHREY, Esq., of Birmingham (of the society of friends), moved—

"That this meeting cannot separate without expressing their warmest sympathy with their fellow subjects in Ireland, in their present oppressed condition, and an earnest hope that their peaceable and most exemplary conduct will tend to encourage their friends in parliament to take the earliest opportunity of bringing their case before the House, with a view to their grievances being speedily and satisfactorily redressed."

Mr R. HARDY, of Worcester, moved, and Mr C. E. RAWLINS, of Liverpool, seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr Sturge for the deep interest he had taken in this matter, which was carried with acclamation, and the meeting then separated.

DUNDEE.

On the evening of Friday last (Feb. 2nd), a very large meeting was held in the Thistle hall, for the purpose of petitioning the House of Commons to investigate into, and redress the grievances of the people, before the supplies are granted, and to memorialise George Duncan, Esq., M.P. for the borough, to support the amendment embodying that principle to be moved on the address in answer to her Majesty's speech by Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P.; George Rough, Esq., in the chair. O. J. Rowland, Esq., Sec. to the Complete Suffrage Society, one of a deputation appointed to wait on the member for the borough, having reported the result of the interview obtained with that gentleman (which was favourable to the object of the meeting), Mr Clyde moved, and Mr Cooper seconded, the following resolution, "That as it is a principle of the British constitution, that the grievances of the people should be inquired into and redressed before the supplies are voted, this meeting approve of and support Sharman Crawford in the bold and constitutional effort to enforce this principle in an amendment, to be moved by him, on the address in answer to her Majesty's speech, for the purpose of obtaining the full, fair, and free representation of the people in parliament, and the establishment of commercial and religious freedom." Mr Peterkin then moved, and Mr Durham seconded, the resolution, "That the meeting respectfully and earnestly request George Duncan, Esq., M.P., to give his support to Sharman Crawford's amendment." It was then moved by Mr Arthur, and seconded by Mr O. J. Rowland, "That a petition, embodying the principles contained in the previous resolutions, should be sent to the House of Commons for their adoption." The speeches in support of these resolutions were of a first-rate order, and the resolutions themselves were carried without a single dissentient voice. The conduct of the chairman was most admirable, and the whole proceedings such as may well fill the friends to complete suffrage with the most animating hopes respecting the triumph of their principles. After a vote of thanks had been given to the chairman, the meeting, one of the most orderly and unanimous that have taken place in Dundee for some years past, quietly broke up about half-past ten o'clock.

ABERDEEN.—A public meeting, called by the Complete Suffrage Association, was held in John street Hall, on Tuesday evening, Mr James Borthwick, merchant, in the chair, when the plan proposed by W. Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P., for obtaining a redress of the grievances of the people, was read to the meeting. Mr John Gibson, merchant, submitted

a memorial to the meeting, requesting Joseph Hume, Esq., M.P., to support the same in his place in the House of Commons; also a petition to the legislature was read by Mr Robert Forbes, currier, claiming a redress of grievances, before the voting away of the people's money to a standing army in a time of peace. The chairman submitted each separately to the meeting, when both were carried without a dissenting voice.

MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.—On Tuesday evening week, a meeting was held in the Arcade in this town, to consider the expediency of requesting the representatives for the borough to support the intended motion of Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P., on the amendment to the address on her Majesty's speech, for withholding the supplies until the grievances of the people be investigated and redressed; Mr John Hills was called to the chair. A resolution requesting the members for this borough to support the motion above alluded to was proposed by Mr W. Taylor in a very energetic speech, and briefly seconded by Mr T. Hutchinson. An amendment preferring the charter to all other political changes, was proposed and seconded by the two youths, Coates and Monarch (who spoke at the meeting held on the preceding evening). Mr James Williams replied to the amendment at considerable length. During his address there were numerous expressions of disapprobation on the part of the chartists, but Mr Williams finally silenced them, and proceeded, in a clear, sensible, and effective manner, to comment upon the original resolution and the amendment. A petition to the House of Commons, embodying the same sentiments as the memorial, and praying for complete suffrage, was afterwards moved by Mr Williams, seconded by Mr John Bruce, and carried unanimously. The spirit of the "imperial" was evidently tamed, and they offered no further opposition to the proceedings. Mr Chappell briefly spoke; after which the thanks of the meeting were enthusiastically voted to the Chairman, and the meeting quietly separated. [We are glad to learn—and the above meeting is conclusive of the fact—that the paragraph inserted in a late number, and copied from the *Sunderland Herald*, containing an account of a defeat of the complete suffragists by the chartists at a public meeting, was quite incorrect.]

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—The council of the Newcastle and Gateshead Association met on Wednesday, at the Temperance hotel, Royal Arcade, Newcastle, when resolutions were passed—first, that the state of affairs in the kingdom imperatively demanded a refusal of the supplies by the Commons, until the grievances of the people were investigated and redressed; and, secondly, that a memorial to that effect be addressed to the members for Newcastle and Gateshead. The council have divided the boroughs into districts, and assigned a committee of six complete suffragists to each district, to canvass the electors and non-electors, and ascertain their sentiments on the suffrage question. To provide for the expenses thus incurred, and to enable them to hold public meetings during the session, the council are raising a fund of £50. Sir John Fife has subscribed £2; Messrs W. H. Brockett, G. Charlton, Thomas Horn, James Douglass, Thomas Storey, John Bradburn, George Brown, Joshua Watson, jun., E. S. Hills, Thomas Rea, and A. Redshaw, £1 each; and Messrs A. D. Young, J. J. Gilmour, and John Blakey, 10s. each.—*Gateshead Observer*.

MEETING AT LEICESTER.—In the *Leicester Mercury* of Saturday, whose improved appearance and arrangement we are glad to perceive, is a long report of a meeting held in the Town-hall, on Tuesday evening, to give the people of that town an opportunity of expressing their approbation of the plan propounded by William Sharman Crawford, Esq., of moving amendments on motions for supply till the people's grievances were heard. There was a numerous attendance, comprising a considerable number of working men, Mr John Collier, town-councillor, in the chair. Among the speakers of the evening were Messrs J. P. Mursell, J. Bloodworth, Thos. Beggs of Nottingham, Finn, and Pegg. A memorial to the members for the borough was unanimously adopted. Of the spirit of the meeting the *Mercury* says:—The meeting held on Tuesday evening, in the Leicester Town hall, in support of this measure, was an admirable one. There was a very large attendance of respectable working men, mingled with a considerable number of the middle class of society. The utmost order prevailed. We have never seen a meeting in Leicester conducted with greater decorum. The addresses were temperate, firm, and relevant, and a most favourable impression was produced. Several of the speakers were working men, making no pretensions to education, but whose addresses would put to shame the pretensions of men who pride themselves on their adventitious appendages.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—On Monday evening a public meeting was held at the National hall, Holborn, for the purpose of supporting Mr Sharman Crawford, and other liberal members of parliament, to enforce upon the House of Commons the immediate consideration of the grievances of the people. The chair was taken by Mr Beggs, of Nottingham, who addressed the meeting at some length. He stated that they had only resorted to attempt the stoppage of the supplies now that all other means of inducing the government to listen to the complaints of the people had failed. He had been in the manufacturing districts, and knew the misery to which the labouring classes were subjected. In Manchester alone, 8,666 persons had lived for seven months on 14d. each, and the stocking makers at Nottingham were in a similar state of misery. For the last ten years the church had been receiving ten millions a year for the education of the poor; and

yet, out of 7,000,000 of the labouring classes, only 500,000 were decently informed. A new class of instructors ought, therefore, to be selected. After some further remarks from the chairman, Dr Epps addressed the meeting, and was followed by Messrs Dunlop, Goodfellow, Nicholls, and others. Resolutions, expressive with sympathy with Mr Sharman Crawford, and declaratory of the duty of supporting the liberal party in the House of Commons, to obtain redress for the grievances of the people, were put and carried with acclamation. Several persons attended the meeting evidently with a view to the interruption and annoyance of the speakers, in which they succeeded to a considerable extent.—*Chronicle*.

TAUNTON.—The memorial to the members for this borough, requesting them to support Mr S. Crawford's motion for stopping the supplies until the people's complaints have been heard and discussed, has received nearly 1,000 signatures, being those of 193 electors, and upwards of 800 non-electors. The memorial was forwarded on the 31st.—*Somerset County Gazette*.

BRADFORD.—A memorial, got up by the complete suffragists in Bradford, Yorkshire, to be presented to the two borough members, has been very numerously signed, praying them to support Sharman Crawford's motion, "that the grievances of the people shall be inquired into, and redressed, before the public money is voted away."

ABERDEEN.—The memorial to Mr Bannerman, M.P., from the electors, requesting him to support the amendment of Mr Sharman Crawford, "That no supplies be voted by the Commons until the just grievances of the people are investigated and redressed," was forwarded to London by this morning's mail. It bears the signatures of 517 of the electors, among whom are many of the most esteemed and influential of the citizens, several members of council, and thirteen clergymen of various denominations. It is, in our opinion, the most important and significant document that ever left the city, and does great credit to the friends in this quarter of honest and rational legislation.—*Aberdeen Review*.

FINSBURY.—A memorial on the subject of Mr Crawford's plan, signed by about 400 persons, has been presented to Messrs Duncombe and Wakley, M.P.'s for this borough. The result of the canvass was highly encouraging. From the shortness of the time but a very small proportion of the householders of the borough could be canvassed, but only about 20 per cent. of those persons thus promiscuously waited upon, refused to sign the memorial. There is little doubt that had time permitted the signatures of a large majority of the electors of the borough might have been obtained.

PROVINCIAL.

MR SHARMAN CRAWFORD AT ROCHDALE.—This gentleman, following the excellent example of Andrew Marvell, met his constituents on Monday, the 29th ult., to render an account of his parliamentary stewardship during the last session, he having most honourably promised at his election to adopt this course, in order that the electors of Rochdale might have the opportunity of recalling the trust deposited in his hands, and thus conferring on their borough the full advantage of annual parliaments. The Circus, which is ninety feet long and fifty feet wide, was engaged for the occasion. The whole of this building was most densely crowded before eight o'clock, the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting. Mr James Leach, the chief constable, was called to the chair, and briefly introduced Mr Crawford, who was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and addressed the meeting for about one hour and three quarters. In the course of his address he explained his plan of parliamentary agitation during the present session. Resolutions of thanks for his efficient parliamentary services, approving of the plan for obstructing the supplies, were unanimously passed to Mr Crawford. The Chairman requested the audience to sign the memorial to Mr Crawford, (which appeared in our columns some time since) as soon as they could, that it might be sent to him early; as it would show the minister that he was acting by the directions and in unison with his constituents. It is expected that the memorial will be very numerously signed both by electors and non-electors.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

BLACKBURN.—At a numerous and enthusiastic meeting, held at Blackburn on Monday the 29th ult., attended by Colonel Thompson, and Messrs Cobden and Bright, and H. Ashworth, £713 14s. 8d. was subscribed to the League fund, independent of £200 previously subscribed at Manchester.

STOCKPORT.—One of the largest, most respectable, and most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Stockport, took place on Tuesday week, in aid of the great League fund of £100,000. The meeting was held in Batty's Royal Circus, Middle Hillgate, a spacious pavilion, capable of seating 2,500 persons; and the whole available space in the boxes, pit, and galleries, were crowded to excess. At ten minutes before seven o'clock, the chair was taken by Cephas Howard, Esq., mayor of the borough; and most of the influential liberals of the town were present. A great number of addresses were presented by working men to Mr Cobden, from different manufactories, thanking him for his exertions, and calling upon him to persevere in his great object—the destruction of monopolies. Mr Cobden returned thanks to the deputation, and then addressed the meeting. Mr Moore announced the subscriptions for the night, which amounted to £924, in addition to £320 subscribed by Messrs Orrell and Hollins at Manchester. Before the meeting broke up, the total contribution for Stockport was announced to be £1,333 9s. 4d.

THE FREE TRADE BANQUET AT WAKEFIELD.—The grand banquet of the free traders of the West Riding of Yorkshire, came off in the Corn Exchange, Wakefield, on Wednesday evening last. The chair was occupied by J. G. Marshall, Esq., of Leeds, and there were upwards of 600 persons present, amongst whom were Lord Morpeth, R. Cobden, Esq., M.P., J. Bright, Esq., M.P., Colonel Thompson, D. Gaskell, Esq., W. Rand, Esq., H. Ashworth, Esq., H. Stansfield, Esq., mayor of Leeds, and a large number of the leading advocates of free trade. From the report read by Mr Plint it appeared that the contributions to the League fund from the West Riding last year were £6,139 2s. 6d., whilst this year they already exceed £13,000. Lord Morpeth, in returning thanks, said that the time for an 8s. fixed duty, proposed in 1841, had now gone by; but whilst he admitted the zeal and integrity of the Anti-corn-law League, and approved their general object, he was not, as then advised, prepared to debar himself of the opportunity at any future period of acquiescing in a fixed duty of low amount (cries of "It won't do, my lord"). He was not, however, bigoted to this measure of a fixed duty, and he would prefer total and immediate repeal to a year's continuation of the present law [loud cheers]. Whether they were to arrive at the same end by the same or by slightly diverging paths, he said to them from his heart, "Go forward" [loud cheers]. Mr Cobden spoke at great length, strongly deprecating the notion of a fixed duty, and observing that the League would forfeit its character for honesty if it accepted of any compromise whatever. "No, gentlemen," said he, "there shall not be left above ground as much of the stump as shall nourish the smallest fungus." This sentiment was received and responded to by an almost uncontrollable enthusiasm, forming a most striking contrast to their reception of the expediency policy previously propounded. The utmost personal courtesy was shown to the ex-candidate (Lord Morpeth) by every one present; not a single token of disapprobation was observed throughout the evening, but that faint approbation, which would be deemed its equivalent, was very perceptible in the discriminating alternations of approbation or silence, which the audience manifested in a very unusual manner. It was afterwards observed, in various cliques of his lordship's former committee men and other supporters, that they declared, in the most earnest manner, that they would never more bestir themselves on behalf of his lordship, or of any one who was not fully "up to the mark." Mr Bright, Colonel Thompson, Mr Rand, a leading member of the conservative party, and others, afterwards addressed the meeting, which did not separate till a late hour.

At Keighly, £171 has been subscribed towards the League fund; at Oldham, £769; at Doncaster, £90; at Wakefield, £230; at Middleton, £370.

BIRMINGHAM.—A well attended meeting was held at the Town hall, Birmingham, on Monday, and was attended by Colonel Thompson, and Messrs Cobden and Moore. Mr H. Smith was called to the chair. A handful of chartists, under the leadership of George White, endeavoured to upset the meeting; but, after having continued their interruptions for some time, were finally expelled the room. The subscriptions amounted to £850.

ANTI-LEAGUE MEETINGS.—On Saturday the farmers of Richmondshire met at Richmond, Yorkshire, and were to have carried out the anti-league policy, but the concoctors of the scheme reckoned without their host. The Earl of Zetland, whose intention to be present was generally known, attended, as did also several persons of importance connected with the landed interests. A resolution was moved by the callers of the meeting, word for word similar to the Derby resolution, but the noble earl made an excellent free trade speech, and the resolutions were abandoned, and the meeting adjourned. Anti-league meetings are recorded at St Albans (£1,000 subscribed), Wincanton, Weatherley, Durham, Grimsby, Lincoln, Aylesbury, Cambridge (£500), Doncaster, and Carlisle (£200). The meetings are of the usual character, and present no features of peculiar interest.

THE EDUCATION MOVEMENT.

HULL.—On Tuesday evening week, one of the largest meetings, assembled for educational purposes, which has been held in this town for a long series of years, was held in the grand saloon of the Mechanics' institute. The hall was entirely filled, and numbers who came to the door were unable to obtain admission. The Right Honourable Lord Worsley, M.P., presided on the occasion. His lordship was accompanied by Sir William Lowthrop, and we observed on the platform and in the body of the meeting Dr Gordon, Revs J. Morley, E. Morley, T. Stratten, N. Hall, W. Burrows, W. McConkey, D. Pulsford, J. Sibree, N. Jennings, and E. Higginson; Messrs W. Ayre, jun., L. West, J. Bowden, E. Wallis, B. A. Tapp, &c. Resolutions to promote the extension of sound and scriptural education were unanimously adopted. Lord Worsley made a donation of £20, and promised an annual subscription of £5. Other donations and subscriptions were announced. In the course of his speech, Mr Burnet said he would just mention, to prove that something extraordinary in the promotion of education was now doing, that at a meeting held a week previous, in a chapel in London, £2,100 had been collected, and that at Mr James's chapel, of Birmingham, on a similar occasion, £1,400 had been obtained.—*Hull Rockingham.*

BIRMINGHAM.—The dissenters here are all bestirring themselves in the education movement. Schools will ere long be formed in connexion with every dissenting church in the town.

HOWDEN.—NORLE EXAMPLE.—The new day schools, on the plan of the British and Foreign Society, for boys and girls, were opened in the commodious rooms attached to the independent chapel in this town, on Monday the 29th of January, under the efficient management of Mr Aston, from the Normal school, Borough road, London, with the assistance of a competent person as mistress, to instruct the girls in needlework, &c. The committee, solicitous that the privileges which a sound education confers, should be within the reach of all, have come to the conclusion, that for the children of the labouring classes, the terms shall be only one penny per week. The course of instruction is intended to include reading, spelling, grammar, writing, slate and mental arithmetic, geography, and vocal music, on Hullah's system. We are glad to state that the number of scholars admitted on the first day of opening was 190. Such an encouraging commencement has rarely been witnessed in any other place of equal population, when it is considered that there is a National school in the town, which has been in existence for a great number of years. Much of this success may perhaps safely be attributed to the fact, that whilst the British system has incorporated the improvements of other systems of teaching in the present day, and has always been found, under well-trained masters, to ensure the rapid progress of the scholars, it is at the same time entirely free from sectarianism, so that parents of every denomination may, without the slightest scruple, avail themselves of the advantages it offers to their children. We heartily bid this new enterprise in Howden "God speed."—*Correspondent.*

BATH.—We are happy to perceive, that the efforts of our correspondents, who have drawn attention to the subject of education, have not been without their results. The Bath Forum Free school is to be enlarged; and the erection of a new school room is now under the consideration of the committee. The members of Argyle chapel are also making contributions towards a more extensive system of education. At a meeting held on Wednesday, a subscription, to the amount of £1,100, was announced, and J. G. Mansford, Esq., has presented a piece of ground (valued at £400) for the erection of the school.—*Bath Journal.*

OLDHAM.—A number of the principal inhabitants of Oldham, members of dissenting congregations, anxious to place within the reach of the operative classes the advantages of an excellent system of education, based on the holy scriptures, without any reference whatever to sectarian differences, have established a public day school in the baptist Sunday school room, George street, Oldham, which was opened on Monday last, under the most encouraging symptoms of success. The means for its support are derived from a moderate scale of charge, varying from "wopence to fourpence per scholar, according to classes, aided by the subscriptions of the friends of the institution; about fifty scholars, chiefly of families of the working class, attended the first day. Mr Selton, late of the normal school in connexion with the British and Foreign School Society, has been appointed the master.

LEICESTER.—The education scheme of Sir James Graham has done immense good in arousing the dissenters of this kingdom to put forth their energies in favour of popular education, hitherto too much neglected. We are happy to learn that Leicester is not behind in the movement, day schools having been already commenced in connexion with some of the dissenting congregations, while others are, at the present time, making arrangements for following their example. The dissenters of Barton, Measham, and other places in this locality, are doing the like.—*Leicester Mercury.*

INCENDIARISM.

INCENDIARISM IN ESSEX.—The fiendish spirit of incendiarism is increasing in this county to a fearful extent. Scarcely a night is allowed to pass without an instance of it occurring in one part of the county or another, and we regret to state that but one individual has of late been apprehended to whom guilt is likely to be attached. Between ten and eleven o'clock on Monday night, the 29th ult., three fires burst out almost at the same instant, in the parish of Ardleigh, about four miles from Colchester, which in a short time illuminated the surrounding neighbourhood for miles distant, and created the greatest consternation and alarm. The fire-engines from Colchester, Dedham, and Manningtree were rapidly in motion, and soon found their way to the scenes of conflagration, but the exertions of the firemen (assisted by thousands of persons) only succeeded in preserving the dwelling-houses and furniture of the different occupants. We hear that another fire took place in the parish of Bures, in Suffolk, about twelve miles from Ardleigh, the same night.—*Times.*

FIRE AT POND HALL, NEAR HADLEIGH.—Our Hadleigh agent, who has just arrived, we regret to say, brings intelligence of an alarming fire now (Monday night, 11 o'clock) blazing at this place. Mr Hicks is the occupier of the farm; and there was then burning three stacks, a barn, and three large sheds.—*Ipswich Express.*

On Tuesday evening last a hay stack and wheat stack, a double barn filled with wheat, thrashed and unthrashed, a straw stack, a bean stack, a large clover stack, cowhouses, stables, and one or two other barns, were consumed by fire, on the premises of Mr Ansell, of Wenham, Suffolk. Nearly two hundred persons belonging to the village and its vicinity, who were present, refused to work the engines, though offered money for their services. No doubt is entertained of this being an incendiary fire, it having begun in a straw stack on the side exposed to the strong wind which was blowing all the evening; the person who first discovered it, moreover, declares that a

sulphurous smell was strongly discernible. Fortunately the property was insured. It is also melancholy to relate that four fires were visible at Ipswich on the night previous, three of which are said to have occurred in the village of Ardleigh, in Essex, which broke out in succession.

EARL SPENCER.—In a letter to Mr Bonner, Secretary to the Spalding Association for the Protection of Agriculture, Earl Spencer declines to retire from the Presidency of the Royal Agricultural Society of England: the step would injure the society; and his opinions on the subject of the corn laws were known long before the existence of the Anti-corn-law League, with which he has no connexion whatever.

A clergyman in this county has a son only fourteen years of age, who is six feet three inches high, and stout in proportion; his foot measuring thirteen and a half inches in length. Both his parents are below the average stature.—*Essex Herald.*

COOL—VERY!—A person named Catlin has been committed to Huntingdon gaol for sheepstealing, and when in custody of the police was also accused of having maliciously damaged about 250 young timbers growing in a plantation belonging to Mr John Martin, of Bury, near Ramsey, for information of which a reward of 11 guineas was offered. The prisoner, finding that he must go to gaol for sheepstealing, in a very candid manner admitted that he also damaged the trees, and has claimed the reward as being the informer against himself.

Arrangements are in progress for placing steam carriages on the road from Stortford through Newmarket, and from Colchester through Ipswich, to Norwich, early in the spring.

THE POOR LAW AND THE POOR.—Mr John J. Ekless, of Bursledon bridge, was summoned before the magistrates of Farham, on Wednesday week, for non-payment of poor rates. The defendant (who is well known as an indefatigable friend of freedom, especially of the rights of the poor) said that his objection arose from the misapplication of rates collected—that while he was paying a greater amount for the same property than was paid under the old law, the poor were much worse treated—that cases of shameful neglect, cruelty, and depravity, were of frequent occurrence in the house—that out of the house the poor were in a more destitute state still—and that he had seized this opportunity of making these things known to the magistrates. He came prepared to prove that old worn-out labourers of the parish of Titchfield were existing on less than half the sum expended for food on the felon in Millbank prison, and he begged to be allowed to adduce his proofs. The bench having stated that they could do nothing, Mr Ekless, having answered his purpose, paid the amount of his rate. Mr Ekless then, addressing the bench, said that he had a case which, by the 27th clause in the new poor law act, they could entertain, and introduced "Old John Ford" to their notice, as one of the "bold peasantry, our country's pride."

A man 73 years old, who had suffered three severe surgical operations from cancer—one cut from his lip, next a finger cut off, and last his right arm amputated—and with a confirmed cancer now on his cheek—that this wretched man, who had before his eyes a lingering and painful death, was now dragging out his miserable existence on less than half a felon's fare, having fourteenpence a week to keep him in food and clothing! after deducting one shilling for lodging, and fourpence for washing and mending. Such being his deplorable state, he did most earnestly intreat that they would examine him, as the clause previously read empowered the bench, or even two justices of the peace, "at their just and proper discretion, to direct by order under their hands and seals that relief shall be given to any adult person, who shall, from old age or infirmity of body, be wholly unable to work, without requiring that such person shall reside in a workhouse."

After much consultation, the bench declined entertaining this question also, stating that the poor law commissioners had by their orders nullified this clause, and therefore they had no power to act. Mr Ekless expressed his deep regret that the magisterial authority should be thus treated with contempt.

The chairman then asked Mr Ekless why John Ford did not go into the "house."

Mr Ekless replied, because he, John Ford, had heard of the fate of old John Hughes in "the house;" of the rotten bed taken from under him, which stunk worse than dung out of a pigsty, which Henry Smith, who buried it, can testify—of maggots crawling over his body—of the body being swarming—and of pieces of flesh dropping from him when moved, "which had the appearance of carrion which dogs had been gnawing," as Earwaker and others can testify. This John Ford has heard—and more, for he has lately learned the fate of poor old Charles Muspratt—a man who filled confidential situations for fifty years in the parish of Titchfield, who being bed-ridden, lost his eye-sight by shameful neglect, had a fresh bed applied for several days before he got it, which, when removed, was rotten through, and threw out such an intolerable stench as was unbearable, and therefore was taken away and buried; that not only his bed but his back was in a dreadful state, also very little in preference to John Hughes, excepting the maggots. All this John Ford had heard, and more; therefore John Ford would not enter "the house."

The bench then recommended Mr Ekless to apply to the poor law commissioners of Somerset house, who would gladly institute an inquiry into the cruelty and neglect said by him to have occurred in "the house." Mr Ekless thanked the bench for the advice, which he did not think prudent to act on, having been threatened with a prosecution from that all-powerful body as his reward for ferreting out and publishing the cases of old John Hughes and "the boys of weak intellect under their treatment for the itch;" a threat subsequently held out by Colonel A'Court, then assistant poor law commissioner.

Alderman Brooks and Mr Henry Rawson, of Manchester, have commenced actions against the *Manchester Courier* and *Liverpool Mail*, for libel upon them, published in those papers, and arising out of the corn-law question.

LATE HOURS OF BUSINESS.—At a very numerous meeting of drapers' assistants in Manchester, it was resolved:—"That the ministers of the church, and the various denominations in Manchester and Salford, be respectfully solicited to use their influence with the tradesmen in their respective districts, to agree to close their shops at seven o'clock, from the 1st of August to the 1st of April, and at eight o'clock during the other months; but on Saturday evening at nine o'clock all the year."

THE GADDESBY MURDER.—We learn from the *Leicester Mercury* that the magistrates of that town having come to the conclusion that Mrs Hodges' evidence against Messenger is not to be depended upon, have discharged the latter. Mrs Hodges stated that when returning home on the eventful day she took a ticket at Syston, for which she paid a shilling, and came up by the railway. It is distinctly asserted by the railway authorities that not a single person was booked from Syston that morning, either for a first or second class carriage, and the sum which she paid was first-class fare.

IRELAND.

THE STATE TRIALS.

Tuesday, Jan. 30th—Fourteenth day.

At the opening of the court this morning, Mr FITZGIBBON commenced his address, as counsel for Dr Gray. He said that the doctrine of the conspiracy, as laid down by the Attorney-general, was, that it was a combination of two or more persons to do an illegal act, or to do a lawful act by unlawful means. He denied the correctness of the doctrine. He then cited the opinions of Lord Denman, Chief Justice Bushe, and other legal authorities in support of this opinion. The learned gentleman denied that there was any case of conspiracy established. The people were peaceable and orderly. They were not drilled, and ordered to advance and retire, as they were in England. The people met in large numbers, but it was by such means that redress of grievances was always obtained. The learned gentleman then referred to the means adopted by the mailed barons of England when the great charter of England's liberties was wrested from King John, and to the attitude assumed by the people at the time of the Clare election. The learned gentleman then referred, in very strong language, to the conduct of the Attorney-general, with regard to the prosecutions. He did not object to his doing his duty, but he ought to do so in a manly and straightforward manner, and not have stated the law incorrectly to obtain the conviction of a brother barrister, and who had been an ornament to his profession for many years. He concurred with the Attorney-general that this was a momentous case—momentous to the Attorney-general, and the party with which he was connected. It would afford that party a scourge to repress the people from giving expression to their feelings and opinions, but he trusted that the court and jury would interpose to prevent them from obtaining that power. The juries of England had always saved the liberties of the people when they were sought to be crushed by charges like the present. The last case of this kind was the charge of the constructive treason brought against Tooke and Hardy, but an English jury three times brought in a verdict of "not guilty."

At this point of the learned gentleman's speech, the judges retired for a short time, and during that period one of the strangest occurrences that ever took place in a court of justice was witnessed. Her Majesty's Attorney-general, the public prosecutor, the preserver of the public peace, in the progress of a state prosecution, in the very precincts of the court, sent a challenge! Mr FITZGIBBON, who had, in the course of his address, made certain very strong observations, which the representative of the Irish bar considered personally offensive; he, therefore, whilst the judges were absent, wrote a note to that gentleman, demanding an apology or the name of a friend. Mr FITZGIBBON returned the note, and when the judges resumed their seats laid the matter before them. The following is a brief statement of what passed:—

Mr FITZGIBBON: A note has been put into my hands, my lords, signed by the Attorney-general, stating that I have given him personal offence, and that, if I do not apologise, I must name a friend. I will ask him whether, considering our respective positions, such a course is manly?

The Attorney-general: If Mr FITZGIBBON has any application to make, it must be upon affidavit. He has attributed to me an improper feeling in this prosecution. I entirely disclaim being influenced by any private or personal feeling whatever. I have been actuated only by my sense of public duty.

Mr FITZGIBBON: I could understand the propriety of calling my attention to anything offensive I might have said, but when he comes with a pistol in his hand, it will not draw an apology from me.

Mr Moore, as the friend of both the learned gentlemen, suggested an adjournment for a short time, to allow them to arrange the matter by explanation.

The Lord Chief Justice said the court felt much embarrassed by what had occurred. They thought the Attorney-general was the last man who ought to have allowed himself to be betrayed into such expressions as had been stated to the court.

The Attorney-general said his learned friends around him had told him that in his note there was an observation he ought not to have made. He wrote it with excited feelings, and would withdraw it. He would, however, impose no terms, and would leave the gentlemen on the other side to adopt such course as his character entitled him to expect.

The Lord Chief Justice must say they considered what

had taken place during the absence of the judges was the same as if it had occurred in their presence.

Mr FITZGIBBON said he was unconscious of having ever said or done anything with the base intention of wounding the feelings of another, and entirely disclaimed any such intention in this case.

Mr Moore suggested that, after the explanation that had been given, the whole matter should be allowed to drop.

The court heartily concurred in the suggestion, and the Attorney-general and Mr FITZGIBBON having also expressed their concurrence, it was allowed to do so.

This episode over, Mr FITZGIBBON resumed his address, and again impressed on the jury that they were the exclusive judges of the criminality of the traversers, and then argued for the legality of the various meetings, and of the association of which the traversers were members, at the same time avowing himself a repealer. It would be necessary, he said, to comment at some length on several of the speeches made by the traversers, and, as it was then late in the day, he must request the favour of an adjournment.

The court very reluctantly complied, whereupon Dr Gray, one of the traversers, rose, and asked permission to say a few words. Their lordships, however, refused, as anything he wished to address to the court might be stated by his counsel, Mr FITZGIBBON.

The extraordinary proceedings of the day then terminated.

Fifteenth day—Wednesday.

Mr FITZGIBBON continued his address from ten till five o'clock, when he closed. He read a number of extracts from Mr O'Connell's speeches and other sources, showing that he had always counseled peace and obedience to the laws; and he contended that the struggle which Mr O'Connell always meant, was a moral, not a physical struggle. In the course of his speech, Mr FITZGIBBON acquitted Mr Bond Hughes from the imputation of being a government spy; allowing that "he had proved himself a man of sense, honour, and fortitude." He finished with deploring the "scene" of the previous day; he emphatically dwelt upon the ardent temper of both, which neither of them could help; repeated his avowal that Mr Smith was a "perfect gentleman"; and expressed his anxiety to redeem himself from the self-reproach of having been a party to wounding his feelings.

Sixteenth day—Thursday.

Their lordships took their seats on the bench this morning at ten o'clock, at which hour the court was more crowded than usual, particularly by ladies, some of whom were seated amongst the counsel engaged in the case. The several traversers having answered to their names.

Mr HENN made a formal objection to its competency to adjudicate, on the ground that the term had concluded, and the Lord Chief Justice, at his request, took a note of the point, which it is almost needless to say, after the order of the court, made at the commencement of this term, can have no force whatever.

Mr WHITESIDE, Queen's Counsel, who appeared for Mr Duffy, of the *Nation*, then addressed the jury at great length. He proceeded to pass a high eulogium upon political associations, which, he said, had ever been mainly instrumental in achieving great measures of reform. A conspiracy merely meant a community of sentiment, and it really was too much to make one man responsible for the actions or words of another, over whom he could have had no possible control. It was contrary to the principles of common law, and the jury should be cautious how they formed a precedent in such cases. The indictment was then attacked. It was the work of a strong man with a sharp pair of scissors, and the file of the *Nation* and *Pilot* before him—a work of elegant extracts wound up with a song. The cases cited by the Crown in support of the indictment were the strongest possible arguments in favour of his client. Could any one assert that 75,000 protestants at Hillsborough formed a legal assemblage, whilst 75,000 Roman catholics at Trim were out of the pale of the law, or that an additional thousand to either could have altered its character. Nothing could be more preposterous than the doctrine of the Attorney-general, that the greater the order, the wider was the breach of the peace—the more resolute the determination to preserve the peace, the more danger to be expected and the more the crime committed. Having adverted at great length, and with much eloquence, to the condition of Ireland, to its wants and feelings, and to the character of the people, the learned gentleman concluded in nearly these words:—

The comprehensive genius of Flood, the immortal eloquence of Grattan, the splendour of Burke, the noble simplicity and Demosthenic eloquence of Plunket and of Curran, had failed to save the constitution of Ireland! Had learning, genius, eloquence, lost their power over the souls of men? With one great exception, these distinguished countrymen had passed away, but their memorials had not perished with them. Their names would be remembered by a grateful posterity, while genius was honoured or patriotism remembered. Those who desired the repeal of the union believed that the imperial parliament did not attend sufficiently to our peculiar wants. Our character was misunderstood, and sometimes slandered. Our vices were magnified into crimes, and the crimes of the few were visited upon the nation. The Irish—the mere Irish—had been treated as creatures of impulse—men without settled understandings, without a rational power, or moral sense. Their faults were redeemed by splendid virtues. They had rushed into this agitation with ardour. It was their nature where they felt strongly to act boldly and speak passionately. Ascribe their excesses to their enthusiasm, and forgive. Recollect that the same enthusiasm had borne them triumphantly over fields of peril and glory; had impelled them to shed their dearest blood, and spend their lives in defence of the liberties of England. Nor is their high spirit useful only in the storm of battle: it cheers their almost broken heart under their misery; it sweetens the bitter cup of poverty, which thousands of your countrymen are admitted to feel. The emanations of genius, the imperishable works of art, and the labours of heroes,

and the attachment of patriots, have all been prompted by enthusiasm. The deep passions of the soul are sometimes summoned into action for great and noble purposes, and are awakened by the hand of Omnipotence, by whose touch this island first started into existence—that hand which has stamped upon this bold people the enthusiastic desire for the regeneration of Ireland.

At the conclusion a burst of applause rang from the bar, unchecked by their lordships, which was taken up by the crowd assembled in the hall.

Mr MOORE informed the Court that Mr Whiteside was exhausted, but not done, and their lordships adjourned to Friday.

Seventeenth day—Friday.

On Friday morning, on the sitting of the Court of Queen's Bench, the Chief Justice, in reference to the demonstrations of applause produced by the eloquent address of Mr Whiteside, pointedly reproved "the cheering and improper noise" on the previous evening, and declared that it was the determination of the court, if any such indications of feeling should be again exhibited, to have the galleries cleared.

Mr WHITESIDE then resumed his address, applying himself to the charge respecting arbitration courts, contending that the law itself respected arbitrators, and encouraged them by every means. Next he asserted the right of Mr O'Connell, and of every other subject of the realm, to comment on the Queen's speech as the act of her minister. With respect to the charge of exciting disaffection amongst the army, he contended that no specific act was alleged to have been done that merited censure. After referring to other branches of the case, and dwelling upon the indifference and apathy of the executive during the progress of this so-called conspiracy, counsel concluded a most eloquent and spirit-stirring appeal to the jury, on the inestimable blessings of free discussion, in the following words:—

"Give the verdict required by justice, yet leaning to the side of liberty—the verdict required by truth, yet inclining to the side of accused men striving against the weight, and power, and influence of the Crown—a verdict, perhaps, not desired by a party, but to be applauded by every impartial man—a verdict becoming the high spirit of Irish gentlemen, worthy and intrepid guardians of the rights and liberties of a free people."

Notwithstanding the admonition of the Lord Chief Justice, the court rang with acclamations when Mr Whiteside resumed his seat.

Mr M'DONOGH, as counsel for Mr Barrett, editor of the *Pilot*, proceeded to address the jury, and went regularly through the various repeal demonstrations, commenting upon the evidence of the Crown as he went along. The Court rose before the learned gentleman had concluded his address.

Eighteenth day—Saturday.

At the sitting of the court on Saturday morning, Mr O'Connell stated that as the line of argument and observation to be taken by him would be somewhat different from that adopted by the other counsel, and as the court was likely to be occupied by Mr M'DONOGH during the greater part of that day, he would feel it a convenience if the court did not call upon him till Monday; and, in the mean time, he would be better enabled to condense the views he intended to urge, so as not to take up any considerable portion of the time of the court.

The Lord Chief Justice observed, that the court readily assented to this arrangement, and inquired whether it was the intention of Mr Steele to address the court.

Mr O'CONNELL replied in the negative, and shortly after left the court.

Mr M'DONOGH then resumed his address to the jury, and continued his review of the Repeal meetings. He referred to the Orange Association in Dublin, which at every meeting demanded the repeal of the Catholic Emancipation act, and asked, was there anything more criminal in the proceedings of the repealers, who merely sought the repeal of an act of parliament?

Mr HENN, Q.C., followed, on the part of Mr Steele, in a brief but very effective speech, and expressed his conviction that the jury would return a verdict of acquittal.

At four o'clock the court adjourned until Monday morning, when Mr O'Connell was to commence his address to the jury.

The address of Mr Whiteside to the jury was a very remarkable exhibition of argumentative power and eloquence. His portrayal of the effects of the union (he being a very decided conservative), as explanatory of the motives of the repealers, was a rare specimen of genuine eloquence. From the bar and the auditory there was a sudden burst of acclamation, re-echoed by the crowd in the hall, and the judges exhibited no indication of impatience or dissatisfaction at this extraordinary manifestation. A correspondent of the *Chronicle* also says, "I have heard all the traversers' counsel speak in their defence; but by none did I hear the constitutional law more fully and clearly detailed than by the able lawyer of whose speech I have given you this summary."

The correspondent of the *Chronicle* has other interesting information:—"Up to this moment the counsel and agents for the defence have not decided whether they will bring forward any witnesses. Some of those gentlemen are decidedly of opinion that their case at present, even without the examination of a single witness, is a most triumphant one, and that they should not, therefore, enter into evidence for the defence."

A considerable number of witnesses for the defence have arrived in Dublin from various parts of the country. Several of the Roman catholic bishops, including Dr Kennedy, bishop of Killalee, have arrived, to be examined for the defence, and to establish the peaceable character and objects of the movement.

A number of Roman catholic clergymen and laymen of various persuasions are also to be examined.

Judge Crampton, now trying O'Connell and the other traversers, was once Mr Philip Cecil Crampton, and an ardent radical. The Irish Attorney-general lays great stress on O'Connell's assertion of the Queen's power to convene an Irish parliament, without the leave of the other estates of the realm. Judge Crampton can hardly feel horrified at the doctrine. Before the Reform Bill, he contended that the King could will a change in the representative system of himself, and enfranchise and disfranchise whatever towns he chose to pitch upon.

"As to the result, I shall say nothing, but merely mention a fact, and it is a very curious one. The Conservatives have totally abandoned betting upon a conviction. The Orange party will not now take any odds on that point. This is a very significant change."

OPPOSITION TO POOR-RATE.—Symptoms of very decided resistance to the collection of poor-rate are again exhibited in various districts, and the military and police force have been in requisition. This is more especially evinced in the province of Leinster and the neighbourhood of Limerick.

WAR AND RUMOURS OF WAR.—At the Cashel Quarter Sessions, a gentleman registered two pieces of cannon; and at the Thurles Sessions another gentleman registered fifty-two stand of arms.

SCOTLAND.

MR R. WALLACE, M.P.—The freedom of Paisley was presented to Mr R. Wallace, M.P., on Monday week, for his services in the cause of penny postage. At the same time, Mr Kerr presented to Mrs Wallace a handsome Paisley shawl, equal to any article of the kind of foreign manufacture. Mr Wallace, in his speech, alluded to the maimed manner in which Mr Rowland Hill's plan had been carried out. Stamped writing paper, for instance, had not yet been provided, although to the humbler classes, who are neither likely to keep stamps nor envelopes, it would be of great convenience. Mr Wallace's speech is most instructive and interesting, as giving a faithful history of the progress of penny postage, and the systematic opposition it encountered from both whigs and Tories. We have room only for the following extract:—

Having arrived at the thorough conviction of the practicability and excellence of the whole scheme (Mr Hill's) as propounded, I resolved to move for a committee to inquire into its merits, and to report thereon to the House. I obtained the committee, after a statement of a very few sentences, and proceeded without delay to the performance of my duties as its chairman, to which honour I was unanimously elected by its members, and continued the inquiry unremittingly, until I laid the last report of three on the table of the House of Commons, about the same time in the month of August, as it had been commenced the previous November; so that nine months in the year were occupied in this most important public duty, during all which time I was only absent one committee day, on which the proceedings were merely formal. The course of the penny postage in the parliamentary committee was a very singular one. Nine members were in attendance when it was proposed to recommend to parliament to adopt Mr Hill's plan; I, being in the chair, had no vote unless in the case of an equality. The first vote, in favour of a penny, was lost by five to three; the second, in favour of three-half-pence, was lost by the same number; and by the same men voting for and against it, as did for and against the penny; a twopenny-rate vote was then taken, and Lord Lowther, who had voted against the penny and three-half-penny rate, now voted for the twopenny rate; so that there were four and four, and my vote being now available, I gave it in my most joyous tone. So that, after labouring nearly nine months as chairman of the committee, I had the unspeakable satisfaction of giving the casting vote in favour of the plan which sealed the fate of that inestimable measure, for although twopenny was voted, a penny was found to be the only sum which could do, and so was adopted. Another very remarkable occurrence attended the division on penny postage. Those who voted against the penny, the three half-penny, and the twopenny rates were all whigs—three of the four were in very high offices of state, and the fourth was at the time chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester. Those who voted for the low and uniform rates were all radicals—out and outers like myself—except Lord Lowther, who is a strong Conservative, and yet to his vote may virtually be attributed the obtaining of penny postage, for had he not voted, so as to equalise the number of voters, the casting vote would never have been in my power.

Religious Intelligence.

STEPNEY.—Dr Davies, late of Montreal, has entered on his engagements in Stepney College, where he and his family are now residing. A special prayer meeting was held by the committee of the College, on the 23rd of January, to commend him and the interests of the institution generally to the blessing of the Most High.

MONTREAL.—The Rev. J. M. Cramp, M.A., of Hastings, has been invited by the committee of the Baptist Missionary Society to accept the office of theological tutor in the College at Montreal, vacant through the removal of Dr Davies to Stepney, and has acceded to the proposal.—*Baptist Magazine.*

VALEDICTORY SERVICE.

PINSBURY CHAPEL.

On Lord's day evening, January 28th, Mr W. Duggan, the black native minister at Spanish Town, Jamaica, preached his farewell sermon to a vast and attentive assembly of not less than four thousand persons, which was distinguished for its consecutiveness, biblical illustration, and pungent and touching appeals.

On Tuesday evening a valedictory service was held in

the above place, on account of the departure of Mr W. Duggan to his native church, in Spanish Town, Jamaica; Mr Alexander Fletcher, minister of the chapel, in the chair.

Mr T. Chaffee read the hymns; Mr Rabon, late of St Alban's, offered up the introductory prayer.

Mr FLETCHER, in addressing the immense assembly, stated Mr Duggan belonged to a body of Christians consisting of the descendants of Africa; that his labours had been greatly blessed in this country; and that the meeting was held from unfeigned respect for his person, and to recommend him in prayer to the Most High, that he might be conveyed in safety and peace to his family and flock. The worthy Chairman stated that he felt great pleasure in calling upon his much esteemed brother, Mr Jones, of Chatham, to address the meeting, which was to the following effect, with great feeling, force, and eloquence:—

Mr Chairman—Having but a few days ago bid my highly respected brother farewell, I had not the most distant intention of being present at this interesting meeting; yet I shall feel sincere pleasure in rendering our mutual friend my feeble, but warm, support towards promoting the noble and patriotic object of his mission to this country. I must confess that, when I saw my humble name standing first in the bill announcing this valedictory service, I felt a disposition to shrink from the task thus allotted me; and my sincere friend who placed me there is fully aware of the great reluctance which I feel to appear, especially on a platform in the great metropolis of our country—the finest city among the nations of the earth—a city which is the grand emporium of genius, science, wealth, power, and prosperity—which stands distinguished as the fountain of moral, scientific, and spiritual light to the uncivilised, benighted, and distant nations of the world. But, sir, though reluctant, I have ventured to appear; for if I had shrunk from the task thus imposed upon me, doubtless you would have pronounced me, and that justly, a coward. This epithet would have been a lasting disgrace to one of the sons of the ancient Britons—a race celebrated for their valour and fire, and not less distinguished for their sincerity of friendship, and loyal obedience to the laws of their beautiful Queen and country. We live, sir, in an important and distinguished age in the history of our country—an age immortalised by its political movements and moral convulsions; and the object for which we are at present convened is one of stupendous magnitude, not merely as it relates to the church under the pastoral care of Mr Duggan, but as a great general principle, recognised by all honest, firm, and enlightened nonconformists—the principle of popular and scriptural education—not to be established by the unchristian and iniquitous power of compulsion, but by the glorious principle of Christian willinghood, by the free and voluntary contributions of spiritual and responsible beings—a principle which stands in exquisite harmony with the great law of Heaven, and in exquisite harmony with all the moral elements and affections of immortal man. Many have sneered at the very sound of the voluntary principle, because they never understood it. They denounced it a wild speculation, a fanatic ebullition of a disordered mind, which can never meet the magnitude and urgency of the case, in providing for the mental, secular, and spiritual wants of the rising race, general education for the poor and helpless children of our country. The late iniquitous measure of the present government has served to move the springs of action—it has broke the slumbers of a sleeping church—it has brought into light the latent gigantic spirit of the nonconforming community—and behold, ye sceptics, thousands and tens of thousands, and, in a few years, hundreds of thousands of silver and gold, will be deposited by the hand of voluntary munificence in the treasury of general education. The principle is not shadow, but substance; it is not fiction, but reality; it is not vain speculation, but omnipotent power. It is a sacred power, destined to break every unholy alliance—to burst into shivers the trammels of ecclesiastical establishments, which have for so many ages enchaind and imprisoned the angel of mercy—a power which is destined to run parallel with the chariot of liberal and biblical education, and parallel with the increasing glory and universal triumphs of the cross of Christ. Let the distinguished statesmen of the British senate legislate for the political and commercial prosperity of our country—let them adjust the balances of this mighty empire consonant with the laws of God and the rights of man—let them do their duty in diminishing the crushing and overwhelming load of taxation which is grievously felt by the thousands of our starving poor—let them throw open the gates of commerce, and let our merchants enter the great market of the world—and not venture to legislate for my spiritual and eternal destiny—to step in between my conscience and my God—for this is a sacred place; it is rendered sacred by the infinite value of my soul, and by the transcendent magnitude of my future and eternal existence. Let not strange, frail, mortal hand touch my conscience, for it is sacred—for its rights and privileges our forefathers bled and died; and if we are worthy to be designated their successors—if we pretend to bear their mantle, then we also are prepared to mount the scaffold, or to be fastened to the stake of puritan glory, in defence of the hallowed rights of conscience—in defence of the truth as it is in Jesus. Mr Chairman, we are met for the noble purpose of testing the quality of the voluntary principle, in aiding our much-esteemed brother in establishing day schools for the instruction of the negro children. Men, in past ages of the church, have stood forth as the champions of ignorance; they have boldly defended the empire of darkness, in relation to the lower classes of society; they have maintained that the perpetuity of the reign of ignorance was inseparably connected with the peace and safety of the realm; but, thanks be to God, this hideous dogma has long been driven to the winds, and nobler men, of later date, have boldly maintained that the general education of the people constitutes the mighty bulwark of nations—the grand safeguard of national peace, virtue, safety, and prosperity. Knowledge is power, and wisdom is better than strength. Doubtless, sir, some one may inquire, How is it that I and my deacons came all the way from Chatham to be present at this meeting? It is because we highly respect and sincerely love the descendant of much injured Africa. Though our dear friend is black,—very black—yet he is very comely—comely in his person—comely in his spirit and temper—comely in the social circle—comely in the sacred pulpit, as the plain, solemn, and energetic preacher of the cross—and above all, he is comely in the magnificent robe of the Redeemer's

righteousness. Our friend has paid three different visits to the town of Chatham, and the last was the most popular; his ministrations soothed and encouraged the hearts of many; he has won for himself a good name, as an exemplary Christian, the instructive visitor, the pleasant companion, and as the humble servant of Jesus Christ. I stand by him as an injured man—apart from all denominational considerations—let the strait waistcoat of sectarianism go to the winds of heaven. I care not who the man may be, if he bears the image of Christ, and illustrates the principles and graces of Christianity in his walk and conversation. I stand by him as an injured man; but, my dear brother, be of good cheer—a consciousness of right will sustain you—the upright man, you know, though tossed and tumbled, is upright still. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." You stand before us a noble specimen of the cross of Christ. We have deeply sympathised with you in all your trials and difficulties, since your arrival to this country. And behold these thousands, by which you are surrounded, have come hither for the purpose of affording you a pledge of their high esteem and Christian affection. Before I resume my seat, sir, I have one pleasing duty to discharge, and that is, to present you, my friend, this Pocket Bible, the gift of four Christian ladies, who have greatly enjoyed your ministration; they have requested me to present it to you, as a token of their Christian love and high esteem which they bear towards you; the gift is not costly, as far as silver and gold is concerned, but you are to estimate its value by the sincerity of affection with which it is presented—though not costly in the former sense—but in a higher sense. This holy Bible contains the Infinite mind—the unsearchable riches of Christ—the imperishable treasures of eternity. Receive it as a token, and may its light be your guide—its precious promises your solace—its doctrines the basis of your hope—its fearful warnings your caution—and its heaven your eternal home. Go, then, my beloved brother, in the name of the Lord God of Israel, to your appointed field of Christian labour, with redoubled energy, zeal, and faithfulness; and may you never quit the post of ministerial labour which your heavenly Master has assigned you, till you hear the animating plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Go, then, my brother, with the prayers, the wishes, the affections, of this vast assembly, to the bosom of your anxious family and church, and as you cross the foaming waters of the mighty deep, our fervent petitions will ascend to the Lord of hosts on your behalf, who retains the ocean in the hollow of his hand, and the mighty winds in his fists, that he may convey you safely home. "Go," in the language of inspiration, "thou thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." Farewell in the very church and congregation, dear brother, till we meet in yonder happy home, to part no more [great applause].

Mr H. S. SEABORN, of Coverdale chapel, next spoke. Having laboured some time in British Guiana, he gave a peculiarly interesting account of the churches of the converted negroes in that colony.

He was followed by Mr PARRY, of Northampton Tabernacle, who addressed the meeting with much force and elegance.

He was succeeded by Mr TYLER, of Hope street, Spitalfields, whose speech breathed a spirit of the most amiable and Christian affection. The collection was now made to assist Mr Duggan in carrying forward the laudable object of supporting schools for the instruction of the negro children. After the collection, Mr FLETCHER rose up, and requested Mr Duggan to rise up. In addressing Mr Duggan, he held up in his hand a superb Bible, most elegantly bound in red morocco, and purchased by a few warm-hearted friends in Finsbury chapel, to be presented to Mr Duggan, as a testimony of their affectionate regard, and of their earnest wishes for his usefulness and happiness.

In presenting the Bible to Mr D., the chairman spoke to the following effect:—My dear friend, Mr Duggan, I do not present you with a sparkling diamond, dug from the rocks of the mountains of distant Persia, but I present you with the pearl of great price, brought from heaven; I do not present you with a golden cup, formed by the hands of men, but with the cup of salvation, formed by the hands of God; I present you with precious medicine, prepared in the laboratory of heaven, not to cure the maladies of the body, but to heal the maladies of the souls of a diseased world; I present you with bread—the bread of life—to feed, and nourish, and comfort the souls of those immortals committed to your care; and I present you with a sword—the sword of the spirit—by which you shall obtain a glorious victory of all your spiritual enemies. I present you this Bible as the gift of those who affectionately esteem you, and who earnestly desire and pray that you may reach your distant home in safety—that you may be preserved, for years, for great usefulness—and that you may receive, at last, a crown of life that shall never fade away.

Then Mr D. received the Bible, amid loud and long applause, and addressed the meeting in his own native, characteristic, and affectionate simplicity.

Mr GEORGE EVANS, of Mile End, offered up the concluding prayer.

The whole service was deeply interesting.

LIBERATION OF DR KALLEY.—We rejoice to learn, says the *Edinburgh Witness*, from a letter of the Rev. J. Julius Wood to the Rev. John Sym, dated Funchal, 9th January, that Dr Kalley has at last been restored to liberty. The doctor was released from prison on new year's day. He had sent two appeals to Lisbon against the doings of the authorities here; both had been decided in his favour. As the effect of the first favourable decision, he has been liberated on bail. The formal judgment on the other appeal has not yet reached Madeira; but when it does the bail will fail, and Dr Kalley will be altogether at liberty. Whether proceedings against him will be commenced *de novo*, remains to be seen. The general opinion seems to be that they will not. The attention of the people all over the island has been awakened by Dr Kalley's proceedings; upwards of 10,000 of them have been in his hands as patients; he has distributed some thousand copies of the scriptures, or part of them. The state of feeling regarding him is very curious; for not a few who are decided Roman catholics, and strongly opposed to him, are his warmest friends.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 25, at the Baptist chapel, Torrington, Mr W. R. LOFTUS, of the excise, to FANNY ASHTON, only daughter of the late Mr MAY, of Torrington.

Jan. 25, at Ebenezer chapel, Leeds, by Mr S. W. Ridley, Mr JOHN HILTON, of the Methodist New Connexion, Derby, to ANNE ANIGAIL, only daughter of John Hears, Esq., of the former place.

Jan. 31, by license, at the Congregational chapel, Hungerford, by Mr R. Frost, Mr GEORGE MAJOR, of Swindon, to SARAH, second daughter of Mr Robert Lye, of Hungerford.

Jan. 31, at the Baptist chapel, Ridgmount, Beds, by Mr J. H. Brooks, Mr JOSH. ASHWOOD, draper, Ridgmount, to MARY ANN, only daughter of Mr Samuel JOYCE, Kempston.

Feb. 1, at the independent chapel, East Bedford, Mr JOHN HARRISON, independent minister, of Oventon, near Halifax, to SUSANNAH HARRIS, only daughter of Samuel THOROLD, Esq., of Welham.

Feb. 1, at the Baptist chapel, Gildersome, by Mr R. S. Frearson, Mr CALKES CROWTHER, Dean hall, Morley, to Miss HANNAH HOLDSWORTH, of Briggate.

DEATHS.

Lately, on the Canal parade, Newport, Mrs ANN PARRY, "full of days," having lived to the patriarchal age of 105 years and six months! She retained her faculties to the last.

Jan. 27, aged 71 years, Mr WM GADSBY, during thirty-eight years minister of the Baptist chapel, St George's road, Manchester.

Jan. 29, aged 72, suddenly, at her residence, Spring bank, Low Harrogate, Mrs EWART. She retired to bed on Sunday night, about ten o'clock, apparently in her usual health and spirits; but was shortly seized by a fit of apoplexy, which terminated her sufferings about noon on the following day. The deceased lady was mother of William Ewart, Esq., M.P. for Dumfries, and has left a numerous family, and an extensive circle of acquaintance, to lament their loss.

Jan. 29, at Honley, Leeds, aged 75, Mr RICHARD BRAUMONT, grocer, deservedly esteemed by a large circle of relations and friends. He had been a member of the Christian church of the congregational denomination more than fifty years, and exercised the office of deacon nearly forty years.

Jan. 31, aged 41, Mr JONAS THOMPSON, coal merchant, of Four Lane Ends, Horsforth, near Leeds, one of the society of friends.

Feb. 1, aged 30, of consumption, Mr THOMAS PRISON, minister of the church and congregation assembling in Ebenezer chapel, Pocklington.

Feb. 3, at his father's house, JOHN PHILLIPS, eldest son of John GANGE, Esq., ordnance storekeeper, Dover.

Friday night's *Gazette* announces that the Queen has appointed "the Reverend Henry Mosely, A.M., Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, and the Reverend Frederick Charles Cook, A.M., to be two of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools."

The heavy falls of snow in different parts of the country appear to have thrown considerable impediments in the way of railroad traveling in some instances; but the application of the plough and brooms has been found remarkably efficient in clearing off the snow so as to enable the trains to proceed.

Mr Everett, the American minister, has been for a month on a visit to the Rev. Sydney Smith—of all persons in the world. No repudiation on either side.—*Court Journal*.

ELECTIONS.—The election for the borough of Devises was to take place yesterday, and that for the county, on Monday, the 12th. Mr Edridge, a liberal, is in the field for the county, against Mr Sotherton, the conservative, and a Mr Temple, Q.C., has been brought forward by the League, to contest the borough against Mr Ludlow Bruges.

POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.—It appears from a recent decision of the Post-office authorities, that in future all letters, whether written or printed, being circulars from some foreign house to various merchants here, will be detained by the customs officers, and forwarded to the Post-office, to be charged with postage, and delivered into the hands of the persons for whom they are intended by the employers of that department.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, Jan. 26.

BANKRUPTS.

COOPER, GEORGE, Leeds, butcher, Feb. 14, March 11: solicitors, Messrs Reynar and Son, Leeds, and Messrs Sadlow, Sons, and Torr, Chancery Lane, London.

DRAGON, JAMES ROBERT, Leeds, tallow merchant, Feb. 17, March 7: solicitors, Messrs Williamson and Hill, London, and Mr Carris, Leeds.

LAMONT, DUNCAN, West Smithfield, dealer in foreign wines and spirits, Feb. 14, March 12: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, Basinghall street.

PERRYMAN, JOSEPH HENRY, Birmingham, bookseller, Feb. 14, March 5: solicitors, Mr W. F. Holroyde, Halifax, and Mr Wright, Birmingham.

PETTY, ROBERT, Exning, Suffolk, livery stable keeper, Feb. 9, March 19: solicitor, Mr Gill, Harrington street, Hampstead road.

PHILLOTT, ROBERT, late of Clement's lane, City, but now of Blagdon, Somersetshire, scrivener, Feb. 13, March 12: solicitor, Mr Heaven, Bristol.

THOMPSON, WILLIAM, and MELLIS, JAMES, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants, Feb. 13, March 21: solicitors, Mr J. Watson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Messrs Shield and Harwood, 26, Queen street, Chesapeake.

WEBB, WILLIAM, Leamington, Warwickshire, hotel keeper, Feb. 12, March 9: solicitor, Mr Greatwood, Birmingham.

WOOD, WILLIAM LAW, now or late of Bishopsgate street within, City, export ironmonger, Feb. 9, March 14: solicitor, Mr G. Henderson, 28, Mansell street, Goodman's fields.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BRUCE, ROBERT, Edinburgh, brass founder, Feb. 9, March 1, 1844.

M'ALISTER, ROBERT, Windyedge, Lanarkshire, farmer, Feb. 8, 1844.

M'EWEN, DAVID, Dundee, baker, Feb. 12, March 11.

SUTHERLAND, SPENCER, Blairgowrie, harbour contractor, Feb. 7, 1844.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 23, Laing, Halifax, Yorkshire, draper—Feb. 28, Bedford, Melins place, Westminster road, Lambeth, iron merchant—Feb. 28, Jones, 78, Chesapeake, City, Jeweller—Feb. 23, Yallop, 77, Basinghall street, City, scrivener—Feb. 24, Hodgson, Sandwich, Kent, banker—Feb. 23, Collins, Staines, Middlesex, hotel keeper—Feb. 23, Fry and Co., 81 Mildred's court, Foultry, City, bankers—Feb. 23, Bidmead, 62, Bread street, City, warehouseman—Feb. 23, Lyon, High Holborn, cabinet maker—Feb. 23, Allison, Darlington, Durham, scrivener—Feb. 27, Buckley, Higher Crompton, Lancashire, coal master—Feb. 23, Collings, Devonport, baker—Feb. 29, Cullen, Liverpool, merchant.

Tuesday, Feb. 26th.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 86:—

St Walstan's chapel, Cossey, Norfolk.

BANKRUPTS.

BILLINGTON, SAMUEL, Birkenhead, Cheshire, woolen draper,

Feb. 20, March 19: solicitors, Mr Samuel Minshall, Liverpool; and Messrs Vincent and Sherwood, Temple, London.

CHAPMAN, RICHARD, Scorton, Yorkshire, innkeeper, Feb. 20, March 26: solicitors, Mr John Close, Furnival's inn, London; Mr James Hunton, Richmond; and Mr William Teale, Leeds.

EWART, JOHN and GEORGE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, auctioneers, Feb. 19, March 21: solicitors, Messrs Brooksbank and Farn, 14, Gray's inn square, London; and Mr John Brown, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

GREGORY, THOMAS, Poulshot, Wilts, miller, Feb. 23, March 20: solicitor, Mr Anstie, Devises.

HARDLEY, JOHN, Newport, Isle of Wight, miller, Feb. 15, March 19: solicitors, Messrs M'Leod and Stenning, 13, London street, Fenchurch street.

HILLAM, FRANCIS, Cambridge terrace, Edgeware road, ale merchant, Feb. 20, March 26: solicitor, Mr Appleton, Fenchurch buildings.

HONE, ROBERT, late of 27, Carnarvon place, Spafields, but now of 54, Hutton garden, stationer, Feb. 15, March 15: solicitor, Mr Cattlin, 39, Ely place, Holborn.

LANGRIDGE, THOMAS, Tonbridge Wells, Kent, auctioneer, Feb. 13, March 29: solicitor, Mr Frederick J. Manning, 30, Craven street, Strand, London.

MOORE, JOSEPH, Tamworth, Warwickshire, draper, Feb. 16, March 26: solicitor, Mr Ashurst, 137, Chesapeake.

OOSTON, MARY, Davies street, Berkeley square, watch-maker, Feb. 16, March 21: solicitor, Mr Ashurst, Chesapeake.

RESSEY, CHARLES, Stamford, Lincolnshire, miller, Feb. 14, March 20: solicitors, Mr J. H. Jackson, Stamford, and Mr John Smith, Birmingham.

SMITH, NOEL THOMAS, jun., of Lime street, City, shipowner, February 20, March 19: solicitors, Messrs Clayton and Cookson, 6, New square, Lincoln's inn.

SUTTON, CHARLES, Southampton, grocer, February 13, March 15: solicitor, Mr Robert Oldershaw, King's Arms yard, Moor-gate street, London.

TILDESLEY, MATTHEW, Porto Bello, Staffordshire, timber dealer, February 13, March 15: solicitors, Messrs Philips and Bolton, Wolverhampton.

TISON, HENRY, Hertford, carpenter, Feb. 12, and March 15: solicitors, Messrs Thompson and Co., Salters' hall, London, and Messrs Nicholson and Longmore, Hertford.

WALTON, GEORGE, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham, wine merchant, Feb. 19, and March 18: solicitors, Messrs Dimmock and Burby, Sise lane, London; and Mr Stevenson, Darlington.

WHITE, THOMAS, 284, Regent street, lace dealer, Feb. 13, and March 20: solicitor, Mr Ashurst, Chesapeake.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

M'BRAIN, ROBERT PRATT, and JOHNSTONE, DAVID, jun., Glasgow, ship-owners, February 9, March 1.

OFFERIM, ALEXANDER, Edinburgh, looking-glass manufacturer, February 9, March 1.

KERR, ROBERT, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, tanner, February 13, March 3.

ROBERTSON, GEORGE FREDERICK, late of Glasgow, but now of Greenock, merchant, February 13, March 12.

WILSON, JAMES, Glasgow, baker, February 12, March 4.

M'ALPINE, COLIN, Glasgow, ship smith, February 12, March 4.

HOWIE, JAMES, Midton, horse dealer, February 12, March 4.

DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 27, Henry Molyneux, 49, Lombard street, City, watch maker—March 3, W. C. Thornton, Cleckheaton, Yorkshire, machine maker—March 5, J. M. Knight, Rugby, Warwickshire, ironmonger—Feb. 29, W. Atherton, Manchester, tint glass manufacturer—Feb. 28, J. Raleigh and T. S. Goode, Manchester, merchants—Feb. 29, W. Raby, Redruth, Cornwall, leather seller—Feb. 29, J. Gage, Delverton, Somersetshire, carpenter—Feb. 28, H. Lane, Derby, innkeeper.

BRITISH FUNDS.

In consequence of unfavourable reports having been circulated respecting the policy of the government, after the opening of parliament, a reaction has taken place during the past week, amounting, on the extreme prices, to full three-quarters per cent. The government brokers have taken from £20,000 to £25,000 on each transfer day, but from other quarters the supply has been more than equal to the demand, parcels from £20,000 to £25,000 having been liberally supplied. The business of the share market has been rather diversified, and something may be said to have been done in almost every line.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
4 per cent. Consols	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
3 per cent. Reduced	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
3½ per cent. Reduced	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
New 3½ per cent.	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	194½	194½	194½	194½	194½	194½
India Stock	277½	277½	277½	277½	277½	277½
Exchequer Bills	66pm	69pm	69pm	69pm	69pm	69pm
India Bonds	81pm	—	—	—	83pm	84pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	34½
Belgian	106	Peruvian	22½
Brazilian	70	Portuguese 5 per cents	75
Buenos Ayres	34	Ditto 3 per cents	—
Columbian	12½	Russian	22½
Danish	87	Spanish Active	22½
Dutch 2½ per cents	54½	Ditto Passive	22½
Ditto 5 per cents	101½	Ditto Deferred	13

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	61	London and Brighton	46
Birmingham & Gloucester	74½	London & Croydon	17
Blackwall	6½	London and Greenwich	54
Bristol and Exeter	68½	Ditto New	—
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	—
Eastern Counties	109	Manchester and Leeds	111
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	93
Great North of England	—	Ditto Quarter Shares	—
Great Western	111	North Midland	96
Ditto Half	73	Ditto New	—
Ditto Fifths	—	South Eastern and Dover	35½
London and Birmingham	244	South Western	77½
Ditto Quarter Shares	—	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Feb. 5.

The wheat trade this morning opened with more firmness, and, having only a moderate supply from the home counties, it met a ready demand. There was also a more extensive inquiry for fine foreign, which realised 1s. per qr over the terms of last week. Fine selected samples of barley in some instances sell on rather better terms, but no improvement can be noted on any inferior qualities.

Beans and peas are each low sale. Having a few vessels out-laden fresh up, in addition to the quantity reported, there was a plentiful show of samples. English, and the finer sorts of Scotch, were taken off steadily; and in Irish a tolerable business was done at the currency of last Monday.

Wheat, Red New	45 to 57	Malt, Ordinary	42 to 56
Fine	52 to 59	Pale	54 to 63
White	44 to 60	Eye	30 to 37
Fine	56 to 64	Peas, Hog	28 to 33
Flour, per sack	36 to 50	Maple	28 to 33
Barley	26 to 39	Boilers	31 to 38
Malting	33 to 37	Beans, Ticks	26 to 34

Beans, Pigeon	20 to 26	Wheat	20s. 6d.
Harrow	27 to 28	Barley	5 0
Oats, Feed	18 to 22	Oats	8 0
Fine	20 to 23	Eye	10 4
Poland	20 to 23	Beans	10 4
Potato	19 to 26	Peas	10 8

WHEAT	WHEAT
Wheat	50s. 9d.
Barley	33 10
Oats	18 8
Rye	31 6
Beans	29 10
Peas	30 10

SHEDS.

There is some demand for the finest red cloverseed, and for low descriptions of new; but the middling sorts and foreign are neglected. In white and trefail no alteration. Linseed saleable at former terms. In rape little passing. Canaryseed moves off slowly at our quotations.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt
English, sowing	50s. to 60s.	English, red	70s. to 80s.
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	—
Ditto, crushing	25 to 37	Flemish, pale	44 to 56
Medit. & Odessa	26 to 38	Ditto, fine	70 to 115
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	63 to 68
Large	—	Ditto, fine	70 to 122
Canary, new	58 to —	Old Hamb., red	43 to 54
Extra	60 to —	Ditto, fine	70 to 115
Caraway, old	—	French, red	80 to 88
New	57 to 62	Ditto, white	—
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	15 to 20
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	19 to 18	English, new	250 to 260
White	10 to 12	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	25 to 34	English	91. 10s. to 101. 0s.
Old	14 to 28	Foreign	54. to 61. 10s.
Tares, new	4 to 6	Rapeseed cakes	51. 5s. to 51. 10s.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 5.

The quotations continue very firm, and there is a steady business doing, holders still refraining from pressing sales. Pockets, 1843:—Sussex, 122s. to 130s.; Wealds, 124s. to 130s.; choice ditto, 135s. to 140s.; East Kent, 145s. to 150s.; Mid Kent, 140s. to 180s.; ditto bags, 140s. to 175s.; Farnham pockets, 190s. to 210s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Feb. 5.

The arrivals last week from Ireland were 11,018 shins butter, and 6058 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 921 casks butter. The butter market continues very firm, with a fair extent of business doing, but we cannot note any variation in prices. Bacon has not improved in demand, and we have but few sales to record of singled sides, on board or landed. The supplies are good, and prices the turn cheaper, ranging from 34s. to 39s. per cwt, as in quality and weight. Bale middles are rather more sought after, and tierces dull at last quotations. Lard in good sale at 48s. to 54s., and hams at 46s. to 64s. per cwt.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 5.

The supply of beasts was, on the whole, moderate, while its quality was certainly good. The weather being favourable to slaughtering, and the attendance of buyers rather numerous, the demand for the prime Scots, Herefords, Devons, &c., was comparatively steady, at prices fully equal to those obtained on Monday last; but with the middling and inferior beasts, though they formed but a small portion of the supply, the trade was in a sluggish state. The stock, generally speaking, was suffering but little from the prevailing epidemic. The numbers of sheep were somewhat less than those exhibited on this day so'nigh. Prime old Downs were in demand at, in some instances, an advance of 2d. per 8lbs.; yet we consider the highest general figure for mutton not to exceed 4s. 4d. per 8lbs. The long-wools and half-breeds supported their previous value. About 800 shorn sheep were on the market. Calves were in moderate supply and steady inquiry, at full prices. In pigs a steady business was doing at late rates. The imports of foreign stock in the past week have consisted of 70 beasts from Spain, and 40 from Hamburg.

Beef	2s. 8d. to 4s. 0d.	Veal	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton	2 10 to 4 4	Pork	3 0 to 4 2

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
Friday 519	2,230	134	269
Monday 2,715	24,400	65	980

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 5.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.	Per 8lbs. by the carcass.
Inferior Beef 3s. 9d. to 4s. 4d.	Inf. Mutton 2s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.
Middling do 3 6 to 3 8	Mid. ditto 3 0 to 3 4
Prime large 3 10 to 3 12	Prime ditto 3 6 to 3 8
Prime small 3 2 to 3 4	Veal 3 8 to 4 0
Large Pork 3 2 to 3 8	Small Pork 3 4 to 4 10

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 5.

The supply during the past week has been moderate, but fully equal to the demand. The first two days having been extraordinarily fine, caused a great depression in the market, and the annexed prices were barely maintained. The frost during the last few days has not at present increased the demand, the tendency having been rather downwards than otherwise; but a continuance of cold weather must check vegetation, and would consequently increase the demand for potatoes.

York reds	per ton 60s. to 80s.	Guernsey whites	—s. to —s.
Devon do	65 to 70	Kent and Essex do	50 to 55
Scotch do	—	Walsbeach	— to 55

WOOL.

Sales of combing wools continue to be freely made at advancing prices. Clothing wools are better sale than of late; prices are higher, and the tendency upwards. There still continues to be rather a speculative demand for laid Highland wool, and prices on the advance. White Highland is also inquired for at full rates. Good crossed and Cheviots are in excellent demand at full rates, but for heavy and bad-conditioned there is still but a moderate demand. The public sales of foreign wool commenced on Thursday in London, with a full attendance of buyers, and the quantity to be offered is estimated at between 5000 and 6000 bales. The quotations are fully supported, and are called 1½d. per lb. higher on the lower qualities.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 3.—At per load of 36 trusses.			
Coarse Meadow ..	60s. to 70s.	New Clover Hay ..	65s. to 100s.
New ditto	— —	Old ditto	— —
Useful Old ditto ..	72 .. 76	Old Straw	28 .. 30
Fine Upland ditto	76 .. 80	Wheat Straw	30 .. 33

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 5.

Stewart's, 90s. 3d.; Hutton's, 90s. 3d.; Braddell's Hutton's, 90s. 3d. Ships arrived this week, 153.

Advertisements.

HODGSON'S POTTED WELSH SALMON.

In Pots at 1s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. each. "Among the recent breakfast table luxuries is a very delightful whet to the appetite in the shape of Potted Welsh Salmon, introduced by Hodgson, of Union street, Bishopsgate. It is quite enough for us to state that we have tasted it and highly approve it."—*Satirist*.

"We doubt not, every epicure, traveler, or invalid, will soon avail themselves of this luxury."—*Kent Herald*.

"As a breakfast table luxury, we strongly recommend Hodgson's Potted Welsh Salmon."—*Conservative Journal*.

A CAPITALIST, with £6000 to £8000, may be introduced into a Manufacturing Business in Yorkshire, in which an extensive trade has been carried on for upwards of Twenty Years. A Partner, who has been in the trade for many years, and has the command of the connexions, which are first-rate, would undertake the Manufacturing and Traveling departments.

The most minute information will be given to Principals. Apply to Messrs JAMES and HAMILTON RICHARDSON, Solicitors, Leeds.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE find, on a Scrutiny of the Votes of the General Provisional Committee, that the following Gentlemen are elected as the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE to arrange for the proposed Conference.

The Rev. F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D., Provisional Secretary.

Alliott, Rev. R., LL.D. London
Brock, Rev. W. Norwich
Brown, Rev. J., D.D. Edinburgh
Burnet, Rev. J. London
Carlile, Rev. J. London
Childs, Mr J. Bungay
Conder, J., Esq. London
Crawford, W. S., Esq., M.P. London
Eckert, Rev. R. London
Giles, Rev. J. E. Leeds
Hare, Mr J. M. London
Heugh, Rev. H., D.D. Glasgow
Jenkin, Rev. T. W., D.D. London
Miall, Mr E. London
Murrell, Rev. J. P. Leicester
Payne, Rev. G., LL.D. Exeter
Pellatt, A., Esq. London
Price, T., D.D. London
Stovel, Rev. C. London
Smith, Rev. J. P., D.D., F.R.S. London
Wardlaw, Rev. R., D.D. Glasgow

Hackney, Feb. 1, 1844.

REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.—At a MEETING of the Friends of Civil, Religious, and Commercial Freedom, of Justice to Ireland, and of Universal Peace, from different parts of the United Kingdom, held at Herbert's Hotel, Palace yard, on Friday, the 2d day of February, 1844,

PETER A. TAYLOR, Esq., in the Chair,

It was moved by JOSEPH STURGE, Esq., seconded by JOHN DUNLOP, Esq., of Edinburgh, and resolved unanimously, "That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to William Sharman Crawford, M.P., who moved, John Fielden, M.P., who seconded, and the Twenty-nine Members of the House of Commons who last evening supported, an Amendment on the Address to the Throne, to the effect that it is the first duty of the House of Commons to consider and redress the grievances of the people."

"That this Meeting is highly gratified to find that the First Minister of the Crown, in opposing the Amendment, admitted that the privilege of moving amendments on motions of supply, and perpetual adjournments, possessed by a minority of the House, is intended as a protection against the acts of an oppressive majority."

"That it is the firm conviction of this Meeting, that the grievances under which the nation at present labours are so oppressive, and that the majority of the House of Commons is so opposed to the wishes and opinions of the people, as to warrant the use of every legitimate means of enforcing their consideration; and they, therefore, earnestly hope that Mr. S. Crawford and his supporters will persevere in their constitutional course until the grievances of the people are investigated and redressed."

PETER A. TAYLOR, Chairman.

METROPOLITAN ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

THE FIFTH MONTHLY MEETING of the Association, will be held at the KING'S HEAD TAVERN, FLEET STREET, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1844.

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TO MASTERS OF COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, &c., &c.

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